

# THE TIMES

'The Times' and the  
first jubilee:  
Philip Howard, p14

## Nato defence threatened by economic difficulties

Disarray and disunity are threatening Western security, Dr Josef Luns, Secretary-General of Nato, said yesterday. He was speaking in London on the eve of the ministerial meeting of the alliance. Dr Luns said that besides strains in individual countries, economic difficulties in all the member-nations were likely to undermine defence budgets.

### Dr Luns's warning on eve of talks

By David Spender  
Diplomatic Correspondent

As President Carter turns his attention from economic issues to the Atlantic alliance today, a warning that disarray and disunity are threatening Western security was given by Dr Josef Luns, Secretary-General of Nato. "I am not too optimistic about the situation confronting the alliance," Dr Luns said, speaking in London on the eve of the ministerial meeting today. Besides strains in individual countries, notably the festering sore of the Greek-Turkish conflict, Dr Luns said, that economic difficulties affecting all the member countries were likely to undermine confidence.

In addition, several countries were not in the best shape from the political point of view, while beyond that part of the world covered by the Nato alliance, other worries were loom- ing up, notably in Africa. President Carter is expected to sound a clarion call today to rally the alliance. Dr Luns said that he understood that the President would make important proposals in the cause of defence, in the context of a strong and renewed expression of American commitment to Nato.

"My impression is that the United States will face the consequences of the huge build-up of Soviet forces and will strengthen its own forces and expect the Europeans to do the same," Dr Luns added, though he was not pessimistic about Nato's military capabilities now. He was concerned about the position in the early 1980s if the trend in defence is continued.

President Carter has already affirmed the United States' commitment to Britain, and stressed the need to restore the rapport after meeting London yesterday. It could always be argued, however, that the west is a very decent indicator of the future of European defence.

"I don't think there is any major breakthroughs, but we removed ourselves from the wall down."

Other stories, news, page 6 & OECD trade pledge, page 17

## Miss Hearst placed on probation in hold-up case

By Peter Strafford

New York, May 9  
Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress convicted of bank robbery, was today sentenced to five years' probation in a separate incident which took place in Los Angeles in July 1975.

In passing sentence in Los Angeles, Judge Talbot Callister noted of the fact that Miss Hearst had been kidnapped a month before the crime, and she would commit no other crimes. She was not sent to society, he said. Miss Hearst still faces a seven-year sentence, passed on her bank robbery in San Francisco last year, unless it is reduced or reduced on appeal. At present free on bail, as the appeal and trial in court today account for her parents' and bodyguards.

She has now come off the Los Angeles case, was handled in a state, relatively unscathed.

## User watch on conspiracy prosecutions

Judges have been instructed to look more closely at the issue of a court-challenging conspiracy in an indictment during charges of subversion. Sir D. Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, yesterday issued a circumspect ruling after a full hearing by the Queen's Bench Division. It does not apply to any case where an indictment contains substantive and a related conspiracy, the judge should require the prosecutor to justify the or, failing justification, to withdraw the indictment or, on the contrary, to insist that the founder is justified for purposes if the interests of a defendant.

## Bukovsky: Frontiers of freedom lie inside each one of us

Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the Soviet dissident now living in the West after his exchange with Senior Lieutenant Corvalan, the Chilean Communist leader, addressed the Bund Freies Deutschland (Free Germany Association) in Berlin last night to mark the anniversary of Germany's surrender at the end of the Second World War.

The text of his speech translated by Nicholas Bennett follows:

"It has become part of our tradition to stand that it is there across the Berlin Wall, after the islands of the Goias Archipelago begin, where oppression and violence begin, a world where there is no freedom. Whereas here, on this side of the Wall, we enjoy the ideals of freedom and democracy.

But in reality the frontiers of freedom and lack of freedom

are much more complicated. They lie inside each one of us.

True over here we are in a prison. But a man can retain his freedom of choice, he can not even be in prison. He can leave prison if he pays the price of betrayal. He can try to escape. He can demean himself to obtain some small favour, or he can fight. There is this freedom in prison.

A man who is not free within himself can find a mass of self-justifying arguments. The temptations of his captive state are created, he may tell himself, by noble aims and humane aspirations.

There is one of these which can calm even the conscience of a hangman: "If I do not someone else will. And that someone else will do better than I am doing." How often I have heard this argument

from warders, interrogators and prison psychiatrists. I have heard it here from West German industrialists. "If I do not sell my pipes to the Soviet Union my competitors will get the orders. And I have 1,500 men working with me."

There were 1,500 men "with me" in the labour camp. But many of them understood things differently: "If I do not, when?" And if not now, when? If I do nothing now, while they beat my friend, tomorrow I will accept when they offer me the job of executioner. Every day in my country a man's entire experience of life repeats to him, "Say nothing". However, in spite of decades of terror, more and more people are emerging who refuse to say nothing, because it is exactly here that the

frontier exists between freedom and captivity.

In your world I think it is easier to be free. But I will give you an example. You all know about what happened in Poland, how workers who dared to go on strike were beaten and thrown into prison. You all know how much the Polish economy depends on the German economy. One single threat of a strike in the German factories which fulfil Polish orders, with a demand to release Polish workers from prison, could well force the Gerek Government to carry this out.

The West German trade unions stayed deaf to the call for solidarity. But remember, your freedom ends at that very point where your solidarity

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Mr. Bukovsky: warning to West on captivity.

## Ministers yield to power of the Commons in petrol tax defeat

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

With as much grace as can be expected from Treasury ministers when the House of Commons knocks gaping holes in their Budget strategy, Mr Barnett, the Chief Secretary, yesterday accepted the inevitable and abandoned the 5p per gallon tax.

As the Finance Bill began its committee stage Mr Barnett made no pretence that the loss of revenue was to the Government's liking. With an admiring audience, he admitted that he had been forced on helpless ministers by the parliamentary arithmetic, and the certainty of defeat if the Chancellor had insisted on his pound of flesh.

But all has not been lost for the Treasury. The tax on Duty of Revenue was to the Government's liking. With an admission that it had been forced on helpless ministers by the parliamentary arithmetic, and the certainty of defeat if the Chancellor had insisted on his pound of flesh, he gave a warning that before August 5, when the reduction will take place, the Government will be considering other ways of making up the loss to the Treasury.

He made clear that although the Chancellor might find that there was no need for alternative revenue it would depend very much on what happened elsewhere during the next few months, including a satisfactory

wage agreement with the unions. Mr Barnett left MPs in little doubt that a concession on this occasion did not mean that petrol duty would be left alone in future.

The Government would have to return to the matter of petrol tax, otherwise it would be faced with an unexpected tax that would decline in real terms while others increased.

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## Most Ulster workers still defying intimidation

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

Further attempts by many "loyalists" to stop all industry in northern Ireland by the mass of the people, despite widespread intimidation by paramilitary groups. The United Unionist Action Council, which called the strike to win improved security measures and a return to majority rule at Stormont, again refused to admit defeat. But there were indications last night that the unsuccessful attempt to repeat the 15-day general strike of 1974 may soon be abandoned.

Mr Ingram's trial for criminal libel was to have started at the Central Criminal Court on Monday. Instead, Sir James's counsel will formally withdraw the case against Mr Ingram, Pressman Ltd, the magazine's publisher, Moore-Harries Ltd, its main distributor, and Mr Patrick Marrian, a contributor.

An advertisement in today's edition of the Evening Standard will announce the abandonment of the criminal libel proceedings, and will carry an apology by Private Eye, a withdrawal of the allegations made in its issue of December 12, 1975, about Sir James's involvement in the Lord Lucan affair.

In addition to the roadblocks and roaming mobs in loyalist districts many angry Protestant farmers joined in the disruption during the day and blocked roads in and around many towns with farm vehicles, some carrying placards.

The worst disruption was in Ballymena, co Antrim. All routes into the market town were blocked by about two hundred tractors.

At least five other provincial towns experienced similar demonstrations, and main roads on the outskirts of Belfast were blocked by processions of slowly driven tractors. Some gathered during the morning at the gates of Stormont.

Many of the clashes with the police took place in Portadown, a staunch loyalist town where support for Mr Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is high. A police inspector was kicked and beaten.

The continuing determination of the mass of ordinary Protestants to reject the strike call came in the face of repeated attempts by paramilitary groups to intimidate individual workers, shopkeepers and owners of factories. A bomb exploded outside a large tobacco factory in Belfast, which has stayed open throughout the protest. Cars were hijacked and set on fire and three industrial premises in loyalist areas were attacked with fire-bombs.

Some manual workers at the Ballymullan power station failed to report for duty after repeated threats. But power supplies were maintained at a normal level by the authorities who relied on extra work by engineers at the plant, which supplies four fifth of Ulster's electricity.

Leaders of the action council continued to rely with increasing desperation on the possibility of support from the power workers to rescue their strike from failure. A statement tried to exacerbate differences between manual and white-collar workers at all four of the province's generating plants.

Privately, government officials conceded that some manual workers at Ballymullan had failed to report for duty, but they refused to discuss details of the manning at the station, which has been a key concern.

Elsewhere in Ulster, industry continued its gradual return to normal working.

## Goldsmith case over 'Private Eye' dropped

By Marcel Berlins

Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, is to stop a private prosecution for criminal libel which he started last year against Mr Richard Ingrams, the editor of *Private Eye*. A number of civil actions for libel brought by Sir James arising from items in *Private Eye* have also been settled.

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The effective ending of one of the most bitter legal disputes of recent years, which has raised questions about the law of criminal libel and the freedom of the press, has come as a surprise.

Statements in open court are expected to be made soon, announcing the settlement of the three outstanding civil libel actions between Sir James and *Private Eye*, as well as of actions by Sir James against 17 distributors brought by Sir James arising from items in *Private Eye* which he had also settled.

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It is understood that the magazine will not be required to pay damages to Sir James, although it will have to make a contribution of £30,000 towards his costs, payable in instalments over 10 years.

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Understandings given privately by 16 other distributors of *Private Eye* that they would cease to handle the magazine are to be ended, with the result that they should pass it on to the motorist in full.

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statements in open court.

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Eyebrows were further raised when it was discovered that Professor Jones had taken away, in breach of regulations, about 60 of his personal wartime reports when he took up the chair of natural philosophy at Aberdeen University in 1946.

Professor Jones's action was prompted by fears that the papers would be destroyed by Air Ministry "weeds" removing documents to save shelf space. He also wanted them for reference purposes in the lectures he continued to give at staff colleges. The documents were kept in his security safe in Aberdeen University, and duplicates of them began to appear in the Public Record Office from 1972.

After reading the manuscript of *Most Secret War*, the present head of MI 6 said he would prefer nothing to be written about former operations at all, but made it clear that he would not oppose publication. He suggested that certain details should be omitted and some names of former agents

and officers removed.

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Continued on page 2, col 5

Mr Benn flies to Moscow for two days

Mr Wedgewood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, leaves London by air this morning for a two-day visit to Moscow at the invitation of Mr Vladimir Kirilenko, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology. During his stay he will meet the Soviet ministers for oil, electricity and atomic energy.

It will be Mr Benn's first visit to the Soviet Union for almost a decade. His wife is to accompany him.

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Continued on page 2, col 5

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## HOME NEWS

## Price controls key to continued understanding with the Government, Mr Scanlon says

From Tim Jones  
Labour Reporter  
Eastbourne

The future of the special relationship between the Government and the TUC may depend on effective action to control prices. Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, made that clear yesterday when he said he was confident a Labour government would be maintained in power if it understood the real depth of feeling of ordinary working people over continuing price rises and the erosion of living standards.

In his presidential address to the union's national conference, at Eastbourne, Mr Scanlon echoed the warnings given by Mr Jones, of the transport workers, that failure to act on prices might endanger the concord between the two sides.

Despite last week's decision by his union's dominant en-

gineering section to reject a further round of wage restraint, he added that recent developments had emphasized once again the need for the TUC to keep talking to the Government. These developments included the Government's apparent intention to tighten the increase in petrol taxation and to make tax cuts not conditional on a phase three agreement. He made no specific comment on the possibility of a phase three agreement but, in an obvious reference to the Liberal Party, he said he wished the unions had as much power to compel the Government to react as some parties.

"It is an important reason why we must keep up pressure on the Government to take steps to improve job creation particularly for young people," he said. "Paramount is a degree of inflation in the more prosperous countries of West Germany, the United States and Japan, and it is unfortunate that there has been a considerable stress on what is euphemistically termed an extension of free trade."

The trading practices of some countries, he said, strengthened the demands for the imposition of selective import controls. Delegates to the conference passed overwhelmingly a motion calling for the nationalization of the car industry so that planning would be under workers' control.

Mr Scanlon said he was

## Staff cuts 'damaging industrial strategy'

By Paul Roulledge  
Labour Editor

The Government was accused yesterday by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, members of which have access to ministerial information, of undermining the industrial strategy agreed with the TUC by cutting key posts in the Department of Trade, Industry, and Prices and Consumer Protection.

The union said that "information now coming through clearly showed that some of the main planks of the White Paper, *An Approach to Industrial Strategy*, would be seriously undermined by the loss of 1,540 posts decreed under the public spending cuts."

It identifies some of the effects of the cuts as follows:

1. Greater delays in implementing the selective financial assistance scheme through the loss of 60 jobs in regional offices preventing claims for state cash help;

2. A rundown in work on planning agreements with industry, about which the TUC has expressed anxiety, with 50 jobs to go in the Department of Industry division working on agreements with seven named companies;

3. Reduced export capability because of a cut in services to industry including fares, fares and new charges for export services; 100 jobs are to be cut in Export House and 30 in regional export promotion offices;

4. Abolition of all 20 hire purchase inspector posts, "effectively withdrawing hire purchase controls" when the Government is supposed to be fighting inflation by controlling the money supply.

The union, which represents middle and executive grades of the Civil Service, argued last night: "These cuts are in total contradiction to the declared policies of the Government on social security, the reduction of industrial states and the reduction of inflation". It pledged opposition to the cuts "by all possible means".

That destroyed the myth that wages were responsible

for the high rate of inflation, she said.

"We know within our own membership that to maintain the present system of wage restraint will be nearly impossible," Mrs Fenwick said.

"Our people only know that their standard of living has decreased.

"We know talks are going on between the Government, the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry, but unless their findings are seen to be fair and incentives are restored many of us ... will have to oppose the TUC policy."

Miss Judith Knight, assistant general secretary, said: "We question how much the Cabinet and Parliament understand the damage that is being done."

On selective finance, for

industry, the union says that the cut of 50 jobs will mean that many companies will not find it worth while to proceed with investment plans.

The cuts in staff working on planning agreements, so close to the TUC's heart, will show

talks with seven companies mentioned by the union as "existing with schemes with some degree of commitment"; British Leyland, Babcock and Wilcox, Clarke Chapman, Head Wrightson, Whessoe, GEC and Reynolds Parsons.

"Instead of building up staff in this division to go out and seek and negotiate planning agreements, the cuts in this area can only reflect the degree of optimism which the department placed in the future of planning agreements or else a recognition that a fundamental part of the Government's industrial strategy is now a dead duck", she said.

Turning to the issue of food subsidies, she insists: "Since many staff are being cut as a result of the cuts in food subsidies, the whole future of a Department of Prices and Consumer Protection must now be seriously in doubt."

Attention is drawn to further reductions at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington and the National Engineering Laboratory at West Kilkenny, and a halving of the number of inspectors, who since 1966 have controlled the standards of food and water provided on board ships.

The union concluded its discussion by saying: "In addition to these specific cuts, the manpower cuts that are taking place in all divisions will lead to a dramatic reduction in all the services offered to industry and a reduction in the public work being done for the Government."

The responsibility for much of the expansion of local government in recent years was placed firmly on the shoulders of ministers yesterday by Sir Douglas Alden, Head of the Home Civil Service.

Sir Douglas, who retires in December, has long had a reputation for directness. He marked his final appearance before the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure with remarks of a caustic and rare frankness used in public by a civil servant about his political masters.

Doctors and nurses among others were being forced into politics because their own requirements demanded it. That seemed to be one of the most important of the many reasons why Britain was in a crisis.

There was spontaneous applause when Professor Beloff said that when professional people worked in government-financed organizations such as the health or education services, the overheads of control and administration required to guarantee proper use of public funds had an appalling tendency to grow at the expense of the actual services provided.

The question of public action

and the right to strike was raised, and it was pointed out that junior hospital doctors had pleaded the safeguarding of patients' interests.

The committee had given Sir Douglas a catalogue of what

guidelines sent by central government departments to local authorities, such as the definition of a well from the Department of Education and Science and times on measures

the length of cut grass in parks and playing fields from the Department of the Environment.

Sir Douglas commented: "A great deal of local government activity over the past 10 years has come from junior ministers in departments seeking to create a reputation for activity."

But he readily admitted that ministers were overwhelmed.

Attendance at the Committee, overseas visits and answering correspondence contributed to that. "There is no easy solution. It is the increasingly technical work that ministers have to do in committees", he added.

Sir Douglas denied suggestions

that permanent secretaries should

be allowed to sit publicly

and regularly in their

departments outside their infrequent appearances before select committees.

**Heathrow men want showdown**

Maintenance engineers at Heathrow want a showdown with British Airways management over their claim for increased shift pay, which recently caused a crippling strike, one of their leaders said last night. They believe that no talks have taken place on their claim for rates of £5 to £14 a week.

Negotiations yesterday between shop stewards and Mr Reginald Birch, a member of the national executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, came to

a standstill.

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## HOME NEWS

## Home Office is putting Cypriot refugees under pressure to leave, welfare groups say

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Refugees who fled to Britain for safety during the Cypriot conflict in 1974 are resorting to increasingly desperate measures to escape pressure from the Home Office to leave, according to welfare organizations in their community.

An unknown number have gone into hiding, changing their addresses frequently. They stay and work here illegally. The need to scrape a living is putting some of them at the mercy of unscrupulous back-street employers, who pay them small wages to work long hours, but they are deterred from complaining through fear of exposure.

A survey of 66 refugees by one organization, Cypriot Refugee Action, showed that 18 had left the United Kingdom, 12 had married British passport holders and the rest lead a life of unemployment.

This picture of their plight, which is causing mounting anger among a hitherto peaceable community, contrasts with repeated Home Office assurances of good will. Cypriots say those have been broken. The Metropolitan Police say that 236 Cypriots are wanted for deportation and have disappeared.

No one knows exactly how many refugees are here. In 1974, 19,852 Cypriots were admitted, 12,428 of them as visitors with permission to stay less than six months. But many of those might have come any way and it is not possible to relate the number of admissions directly to the total number of embankments from Britain, which in 1974 was 12,190. In 1975, 19,256 Cypriots were admitted, 10,603 as visitors for less than 12 months.

Mr Chambis Stylianou, secretary of the Cypriot Defence Committee, and established here in a regular job, quotes estimates of 10,000 Greek Cypriots who came to Britain.

The experience of the Stylianou family shows the sort of difficulties that can arise with the Home Office. They come from a village which Turkish Cypriots have moved into; their house is used as a hospital. Mr Stylianou has been here since 1965, but the rest of his family fled the village in 1974 and say they have nowhere to return to.

The Home Office says of Mrs Caterina Stylianou, Chambis's mother, that she arrived in the United Kingdom for one month and permission was given for her visit to be extended to August 6. Her request to stay here longer has been turned down by the Home Office.

Mrs Stylianou remains here nevertheless, sometimes unable to sleep at night and increasingly fearing a knock at the door which will remove her from comparative security.

Two of her sons, who were admitted only 15 and 13 when they arrived, have been refused permission to stay. Two other members of the family, a married couple, went to a refugee camp in August, 1974, before coming to the United Kingdom. They want to stay until they can return to the house they had built in the family's village and equipped with new furniture. But the Home Office has said no.

The 1976 statistics show that the number of deportation orders signed was not our of line with those for people from other Commonwealth countries: 47, compared with 50 for Ghana, 68 for India, 69 for Nigeria and 97 for Pakistan.

But the Home Office attitude to the Stylianou family and other cases quoted to me does not, in my view, of the Cypriots, accord with Government assurance given in April after criticism from the Select Committee on Cyprus, which said that the Home Office should be more compassionate in its treatment of Cypriot refugees.

The Government said if had been the practice to "give the benefit of the doubt to those whose claim not to be able to return to Cyprus could not be verified or refuted." Exemptions of six months were being granted to those unable to return.

From Our Correspondent

WAKEFIELD

More realistic punishment for vandalism and hooliganism is advocated by Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, in his annual report published yesterday.

Juvenile crime, he says, forms a large part of known crime figures. Public attention is

## Simplified Finnish social security system saves time and money

### Computers aid pensioners with cost of living

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

The Government is expected this month to announce the next increase in pensions to be implemented in November.

British pensioners, who are forced to watch their pensions eroded by inflation virtually from the moment they receive an increase with the prospect of retrospective inflation proofing one year later, may well wonder how the Finnish Government manages to do what they are told is impossible here. In Finland, if the cost of living rises in May by more than 3 per cent, higher pensions will be paid the following month.

The answer is partly that the Finns have invested in computer systems provided by IBM to deal automatically with claims and increases. In 1976 the pension rose three times in response to increases in the cost of living, at a cost of £500,000 in computer time, compared with £500,000 for a manual operation.

The other part of the answer is that the Finnish pension system is neither as complicated as ours nor as politically controversial. So long as pensions can be used as an election issue, no party in Britain is likely to campaign for a system so simplified that it is taken out of politics altogether.

Pensions and some other benefits, including disability and sickness insurance, are handled in Finland through the Social Insurance Institute in Helsinki. Their official literature states that the institute handles one third of all social security operations in the country, but local offices are increasingly handling claims directly. The institute does not cover either short-term unemployment benefits or family allowances.

The Finns believe computers have produced many advantages. It has helped to improve relations between staff and public by minimizing delays and errors, enabling people to know instantly precisely what

they are entitled to, and has effectively eliminated fraud. All pensioners receive free newsheets which inform them of changes in benefit.

Much of the pension system in Britain is also handled by computer, but the Department of Health and Social Security points out that the complications of supplementary benefit cases mean a minimum of four to five months to implement any increase. Nearly two million pensioners receive supplementary benefit on top of their retirement pension. Because supplementary benefit is based on individual needs, each claim is to be reassessed individually whenever there is an increase. Supplementary benefits take up half the cost of administering the British social security system, although it pays out only 13 per cent of the total allowances.

The largest simplification in the Finnish system is that no contribution test is applied before a benefit is paid out. In Britain, only about a quarter of pensioners receive the basic state pension because contribution tests have to be satisfied. The British pensioner gets less than the basic state pension if he or she has an incomplete contribution record, or more if retirement has been deferred or a graduated pension has been earned.

The entire adult population in Finland is covered for basic state pensions by paying social security levies through the income tax system. The most complicated transaction takes place when a claim is made for a pension of whatever kind, because pension rates partly fluctuate and partly means tested. But when an increase is made, a percentage is applied to the whole amount so that the whole claim does not have to be reassessed.

IBM claims that Finland has kept its administration costs down to about one-third of the costs in Britain, through spending one-tenth of its budget on computers compared with 2 per cent in Britain.

## Why Can't You Remember?

A WELL-KNOWN publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement. It works like a charm to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

According to this publisher many people do not realize how much they can influence others simply by remembering accurately what is being phrased, heard or read. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate such situations simply by your ability to remember. These are only a few of the ways in which you will benefit by possessing a trained memory.

To acquire readers of *The Times* with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory," which will be sent free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Just fill in and return the coupon on page 4 or send your request to: Memory & Concentration Studies (Dept. NSMO), Marple, Stockport.

## Councils' £26m aid for arts is belittled

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

Increased local authority spending on the arts in 1974-75, which came to £26m, was less than a quarter of revenue expenditure on public libraries or parks and open spaces, and about half what was spent on public swimming baths.

The increase on the previous year was £10.5m but in real terms it was probably no more than about £4.5m, an Arts Council survey published today.

This is the second comprehensive survey of local authority spending on the arts in England and it was conducted by questionnaire. The figure of £26m represents the product of a 0.34p rate, or 55p a head of population.

It compares with £40m spent by central government on arts and museums in England and Wales in the same year. Of that, two thirds went on the arts, mostly through the Arts Council, and a third on the national museums and galleries.

Some interesting conclusions emerge. Drama companies had more success in getting increased subsidy from the ratepayer in the early 1970s than did orchestras and opera and dance companies. Striking increases were noted in many cities where new theatres had opened in the previous few years.

In the outer London borough of Redbridge, which spent 31p a head, the new Kenneth More theatre accounted for nearly half the total local authority spending on amateur drama in England.

The survey says: "It would seem that fashion shows and all-star wrestling make a fairly direct fiscal, as well as perhaps as indirect aesthetic, contribution to subsidized music and drama."

Expenditure on arts and museums tended to be considerably greater in London and

the conurbations than in the rest of the country.

The two surveys (the first covered 1972-73) suggested a major cut, even before inflation, in aid to visual arts and arts festivals. Help for individual artists faded. Rather than commissioning works of art, the survey results suggest that more local authorities are putting more resources into organizing temporary art exhibitions.

Some larger authorities made a part of the work of a leisure, recreation or amenities department. In Kent, Wiltshire, the arts were bracketed with public relations; in Fareham, Hampshire, they came under the borough engineer and surveyor; and in Castle Morpeth, Northumberland, they were the responsibility of the director of housing and administration.

The survey says: "Finance for the arts is still an insignificant part of the local recreation budget in some authorities and a small part in most."

Nevertheless, several million pounds would be attributed to the time spent by local authority staffs in administering arts activities and grants.

The Arts Council has decided not to award bursaries as part of its direct support for artists in 1977-78. Five, each worth £3,500, were awarded in 1976-77, together with 25 major awards (£750-£1,500) and 134 minor awards (up to £500). Instead, the scale of larger awards will be extended to range from £50 to £2,500, and they are open to artists living in England who have begun to establish themselves professionally.

There will be one selective in the present year and the closing date for applications is May 27. There were 888 applications last year.

*The Arts and Museums, 1974-75, on Arts Council Spending.* Arts Council, 28 Sackville Street, London, W1X 1DA. £1.50 post free.

## Butchers want illicit meat sales stopped

By Hugh Clayton

Butchers called yesterday for an end to the private sale of meat that is often dangerous to health and wrongly labelled.

Mr George Middlemiss, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, cited the sale of supposedly farm-fresh cut plums in Hampshire which turned out to be a frozen New Zealand carcass with three shoulders, one leg and without about a third of its chops.

"We must intensify our battle against illicit sales of meat," he said at the Federation's conference in Harrogate.

Those we intend to eliminate are the cowboys retailing from filthy premises, boots of cars, buses, factories and greyhound stadiums.

"We have no quarrel with farmers who retail meat according to the law and are subject to the same planning restrictions as we are. They have already discovered our problems and their prices are not even competitive."

Mr Douglas Glover, chairman of the pork and bacon section of the federation, called on the Government to curb imports of processed pig that were undercutting home products with an unjust EEC subsidy.

"The Wiltshire bacon industry has battled for years against senseless unprofitability in economic circumstances largely dictated by its competitors," he said. "Pig farmers have threatened recently to prevent the ending of bacon if nothing is done. We could not wish to see pigs driven to that."

**Vidow murder charge**

Anthony Thomas Green, aged 51, of Rockingham Estate, Southwark, London, was remanded in custody for a week at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday, accused of murdering Mrs Gertie Williams, aged 58, a widow, at her home in Lupus Street, Pimlico.

Former marine gets 5 years for second rape

Less than three years after being given a suspended sentence for raping a housewife, John Smillie carried out a similar rape, it was stated at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Smillie, aged 27, father of two children, was jailed for five years after admitting raping a girl of 18 at Poole, Dorset, in January.

In June, 1974, Mr Smillie, then serving in a Royal Marines Commando, appeared before Mr Justice Park at Winchester Crown Court and admitted raping the housewife. He was said to have dragged her from Poole High Street, up an alley and into a shed, where he stripped and raped her.

Yesterday Mr Smillie, who was discharged from the Royal Marines after the first rape and lives in Belben Avenue, Poole, appeared before Mr Justice Aitken and again admitted rape.

Mr H. de Lorainne, for the prosecution, said: "He apparently had some very favourable reports from probation officers and others that suggested that this offence was not likely to be repeated. It appears that those reports were wrong."

**Printers refuse to cross picket**

More than 60 members of the National Graphical Association, the main craft printing union, refused to cross a picket line of journalists outside the office of the *Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph* yesterday. But a mass meeting was adjourned until today, and the printers went into work in time to produce a reduced edition.

The strike by the journalists began on December 6 over a fringe-benefit claim, but the editor has produced the newspaper single-handed throughout.

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## Datsun offer excellent positions for executives: £3,500 upwards

In the quality of life, particularly in the urban areas, is not confined to Saturday evenings.

"Violence and open defiance of authority are with us the whole time and are getting worse. We are assailed by an unprecedented challenge to law and order and people are sick of it.

Measures for extended periods would soon convince youngsters that society will not tolerate bad behaviour.

In the long term, more outlets for youthful energies and endeavour must be found. Discipline, at home and in the schools, is not sufficient to curb the natural energies and appetitions of young persons

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The Laurel Six executive saloon, in fact, costs £3,545. Which represents remarkable value for a quality built car, equipped to an extremely high standard, and powered by a smooth, six-cylinder 2-litre engine.

It is one of five luxury executive cars in a range of over 20 models, which have maintained Datsun as Britain's leading car importer for more than three years.

And the Laurel Six really stands out in a class of its own, with no other 2-litre executive saloon able to compete in terms of sheer value for money.

The engine, for example, is a straight-six overhead camshaft unit - familiar enough in Jaguars, but a rich rarity in the 2-litre class, where four-cylinders are usually all you can get.

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You ate in  
number car-safety  
est.

Our Motorway  
accident  
respondent.

The failure rate in the annual  
test for cars, which has  
been set to nearly 30 million since  
the test was introduced at the  
start of the year, is "very  
widely" up, says Mr. Peter, Secre-  
tary of State for Transport, said  
yesterday.

He appealed to motorists to  
not exceed the highest possible standard  
and to make regular checks  
such items as brakes, steer-  
ing and tyres.

He added: "If the cars are maintained to  
the highest possible standard  
and to make regular checks  
such items as brakes, steer-  
ing and tyres."

Mr. Peter said he had invited  
the manufacturers to take part in the test on  
a voluntary basis.

In February the  
voluntary failure rate was 37.7  
per cent compared with 30.3  
per cent in the same month  
last year.

The failure rate was 19.7 per  
cent for brakes, 16.1 per cent  
for steering, 9.8 per cent for  
gears and 7.1 per cent for

## Deaths on road lower than 10 years ago

Fewer people were killed on  
the roads in 1975 than in 1955,  
though the number of vehicles  
has gone up sevenfold,  
according to an analysis of road  
incidents in Britain published  
today by the British Road  
ederation.

In 1955 there were 2,500,000  
vehicles on the road compared  
with 17,500,000 20 years later.  
Last year deaths were 6,502 in  
1975, and 6,365 in 1975.

In 1975, motorways carried  
7 per cent of road traffic but  
had only 1.5 per cent of acci-  
dents. The highest accident rate  
was in shopping and residential  
areas.

**Law Report May 9 1977**

## International arbitration award valid

By Our Law Reporter

THE Arbitration Award in India  
in 1962, under the Rules of Interna-  
tional Arbitration, was valid.

Lord Justice Megaw, Lord  
Justice Russell and Lord Justice  
Rowe delivered judgment yesterday.

Judgment delivered May 4.

An arbitrator conducting an  
arbitration under the rules of the  
international Chamber of  
commerce has jurisdiction to  
decide his own jurisdiction, but  
not to decide whether an Indian  
claimant or a Pakistani respondent  
arbitrator or the tribunal is the  
responsible party in the respon-  
sible of a bank guarantee.

Mr. David Davidson, of Swan-

son's, Derry, Industries Ltd., formerly Dabur Cement Ltd., before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord  
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Judgment delivered May 4.

The Court of Appeal dismissed  
an appeal by the National Bank of  
Pakistan from a judgment of the  
High Court of Judicature at Lahore  
of the plaintiff, Dalmia  
Industries Ltd, for £227,422  
interest at the rate of 5 per  
cent per annum and 22,152,600  
per cent interest at 6 per cent ordered  
to be paid by the bank to  
Dalmia at Geneva in 1962 and  
1963.

The bank appealed on the  
ground that the arbitrator had no  
jurisdiction to make the awards.

Mr. Anthony Lloyd QC, Mr. David  
Davidson, Mr. Ian Kinney QC, and  
Mr. Ian Kinney QC, Dalmia, QC,

THEIR LORDSHIPS—In a  
stern judgment, said that in  
1962 Dalmia made a contract with  
Mr. Manekchand Patel, a national of Pak-  
istan, to purchase 100,000 metric  
tonnes of cement from him  
at the price of two crotches per  
metric tonne.

The court gave the first of  
its delivery instructions in  
October 1962, and subsequently  
other instructions, for the  
second and third years. No  
cement was delivered.

The guarantee was given by the  
National Bank of Pakistan, which had a  
branch in Calcutta and a branch in  
London, hence the jurisdiction of  
Dalmia.

It was to operate in the event  
of any failure of the buyer to carry  
out its obligations for any reason  
whatsoever, whether within  
or without its control.

"Unconditional" was taken  
force until the purchase price  
is fully satisfied.

The arbitration clause provided  
that all disputes shall be finally  
settled under the rules of concil-  
iation and arbitration of the  
Chamber of commerce by  
sole arbitrator appointed in  
accordance with the rules. The  
arbitration shall be conducted  
in the discretion of the sole arbit-  
rator.

All questions arising  
out of or relating to this  
agreement, reference to  
Indian law, we agree that  
a court in India alone shall  
have jurisdiction in all matters  
arising from or connected with  
this guarantee and the arbitration.

This was accordingly accepted by  
the court, and the guarantee  
and the arbitration clause, in-  
cluding the arbitrator's jurisdic-  
tion, were governed by Indian law.

Article 13 of the ICE rules pro-  
vides: "(3) If one of the parties  
as one or more pleas as to the  
validity or validity of the arbitra-  
tion clause has satisfied itself of  
the court may, without  
reference to the admissibility  
of merits of such pleas, order that  
arbitration shall proceed. In  
case, any decision as to the  
arbitrator's jurisdiction shall be  
the arbitrator's power."

Mr. Justice Kerr said that  
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## OVERSEAS

## Syrian and American presidents exchange fulsome praise before discussing Middle East

From Edward Mortimer  
Geneva, May 9

The presidents of Syria and the United States showered praise on each other here today at a remarkably cordial first meeting before plunging into three and half hours of talks with their advisers, followed by a working dinner and a final tête-à-tête meeting.

President Carter was described by President Assad as "the great President of Syria". "As a leader of one of the great countries in the Middle East," he said, "I look to him for guidance and advice and for support as all of us search for progress in achieving peace in that important and troubled part of the world."

In a short speech calculated to please an Arab listener, Mr Carter also repeated his view that "there must be a resolution of the Palestine problem and a homeland for the Palestinians". He ended by saying that he believed today's discussions would be fruitful because of Mr Assad's "good will, his experience, his knowledge, his sensitivity and his graciousness in meeting me here."

Evidently responding to such fulsome praise, President Assad prefaced his own prepared statement with an almost equally fulsome impromptu response, thanking Mr Carter for his "untiring, persistent efforts" to achieve peace in the Middle East. He added: "Taken in their totality, the expressions of President Carter on the subject have created an atmosphere of faith and an encouraging atmosphere of optimism."

He described himself, indeed, as "greatly optimistic", but was careful to add that this did not mean that "there has suddenly appeared a magic wand to solve the problem". This more cautious note was reflected in Mr Assad's prepared statement, which emphasized that there is still "a grave situation threatening international peace and security" in the Middle East.

Earlier, on his arrival from London at Geneva airport, Mr Carter had expressed the hope that "later on this year we might come back to find a resolution" to the Middle East conflict; a reference to the

long-adjourned Geneva Middle East peace conference.

Mr Assad, too, said he hoped today's talks would "pave the way with clear ideas for the holding of the Geneva conference", which he saw as "a suitable framework" for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East.

Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, said afterwards that the talks had been "extremely valuable, very informative and very friendly". The detailed discussion had concentrated on three issues: the "nature and meaning of peace", the question of boundaries and their relationship to security, and the Palestinian issue.

On the Palestinian question, Mr Assad may have conveyed a message to Mr Carter from Mr Yasser Arafat, whom he saw in Damascus on Saturday. Syrian officials here refused to comment on a report in the Hearst chain of American newspapers that a message from Mr Arafat had already been conveyed to Washington.

Both Americans and Syrians now seem embarrassed by the report, probably because its publication at this moment is likely to anger their respective protégés, the Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr Simon Peres, the Israeli

and Prime Minister, could suffer in the general election next week from the suggestion that America is preparing to put pressure on Israel to negotiate with the PLO, while Mr Arafat is probably not yet ready to defend the idea of recognizing Israel publicly in front of his own militants.

The Prime Minister commented that heads of government needed to meet at regular intervals as international problems changed. One example was unemployment, which was particularly dominant in the 1930s.

The fact that we have been meeting, Mr Callaghan said, has enabled us to resist these pressures which, however tempting they would be in the short run, would be damaging to world trade in the long run."

To those who were sceptical about summits, the Prime Minister replied that it was not the leaders' job to produce a

## Callaghan report to Commons on summit

By David Wood  
Political Editor

Mr Callaghan added nothing to the declaration from the seven Western leaders when he reported to the Commons yesterday on the economic summit at Downing Street, though it provided an opportunity for Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition leader, and Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, to congratulate him on his presidency and to accept that such meetings are valuable, even though they produce no immediate decisions.

As Mrs Thatcher put it: "One should not expect too much in practical terms to emerge from a summit. The greatest value of them is the meeting and understanding between leaders of the great industrial nations, which in itself is worth achieving." It was, she added, an important conference.

The Prime Minister commented that heads of government needed to meet at regular intervals as international problems changed. One example was unemployment, which was particularly dominant in the 1930s.

The Prime Minister, one of the more practical consequences of the summit was the agreement to monitor the rates of growth of world trade, especially those economies growing faster than the others,

so that if they fell short they were committed to take new measures to ensure they attained their targets.

To those who were sceptical about summits, the Prime Minister replied that it was not the leaders' job to produce a

blueprint. What they had to do was try to get a political impetus on the direction to be taken. That could be fed into the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development and various other bodies of which Britain was only part of the membership.

On a day of more than usually courteous exchanges

between the leaders of the two main parties, Mrs Thatcher made a felicitous point when she asked what steps Mr Callaghan or any other leader took to see that women were represented at the next summit.

"I regret no ladies were present," said Mr Callaghan chivalrously. "I will certainly take note of Mrs Thatcher's application for the post, but I cannot say that she will necessarily find she will be successful."

White shoppers mingled with the demonstrators without exchanging a glance, let alone abuse. The Swapo delegation, heavily loaded with clergymen, took each other's photographs.

Judging from the brief remarks made by the various delegations, the atmosphere of today's discussions was also friendly and informal. All the talks were confidential.

The first meeting of the day was held between the five Western representatives—from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Canada and France—and the 37 members of the multi-ethnic Turnhalle constituent committee. The talks, in a night club on the hotel's fourth floor, lasted four hours.

Turnhalle delegates expressed general satisfaction, said M. Jacques Schirrmeister, the French Ambassador to South Africa, who said he thought the talks had been constructive.

A 12-man Swapo team, led by Mr Daniel Tshisekedi, the organization's deputy chairman, then met the Western five for two hours in a hotel bedroom. They were followed by the Namibian National Front, a alliance of seven small parties, and the tiny opposition Federal Party. A smiling Swapo spokesman said they were "relatively satisfied" with the talks.

All parties involved in today's meetings emphasized that the talks had been largely exploratory.

## Freedom songs greet UN five in Windhoek

From Nicholas Astford  
Windhoek, May 9

If the future of Namibia (South-West Africa) was to be decided by the decolonizing supporters of the various parties in the dispute could achieve, then the South Africa People's Organization (Swapo), would win by a short head.

A group of about 50 Swapo supporters was on hand today outside the Kaifashai Spa hotel in Windhoek where an official Swapo delegation had talks on the future of Namibia with representatives from the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council.

They gave a rousing rendering of several freedom songs, waved clenched fists and chanted political slogans.

The Turnhalle delegates are brought along their supporters about 200. But they all came from one tribal group, the Hereros, whose leader, Mr Clemens Kapuuo, is one of the most prominent members of the Turnhalle conference and were considerably less noisy than the Swapo group.

It was, on the whole, a good-natured beginning to today's discussions, seen as vital to the territory's peaceful transition to independence. The Swapo group started placards calling on South Africa to release political prisoners. Turnhalle supporters had their own banners demanding the release of Swapo prisoners held in Tanzanian jails.

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## 35 civilians shot dead in Rhodesia

From Michael Knappe  
Salisbury, May 9

In one of the worst incidents of its kind in Rhodesia's four-year guerrilla war, at least 35 black civilians were killed when Rhodesian troops clashed with African nationalists guerrillas in the middle of a tribal village near Chiredzi, in south-west Rhodesia.

At least 30 people were wounded. The dead included six girls, six boys, seven men and 16 women. Most of the wounded are in a serious condition.

A Special Branch detective, Superintendent Jim Care, who briefed a party of journalists taken to Chiredzi today, estimated that "about half" the civilian casualties were caused by Government troops and the other half by guerrillas in the battle last Friday night.

One guerrilla was killed and there were no Government casualties. Superintendent Care said it was one of the most unfortunate incidents he had seen in his 24 years in Rhodesia.

The incident in the village of Dzivio, in the Ndebele tribal trust lands 30 miles north-west of the Mozambique border, Government troops hunting a group of guerrillas who had robbed two buses arrived at the village as a guerrilla leader was addressing a meeting of about 200 villagers.

The troops were spotted by guerrilla sentry who opened fire. Other guerrillas joined in the shouting and the government troops fired back. The civilians panicked and fled, many being caught in the crossfire, said Superintendent Care.

## Tentative easing of Lahore curfew ends in shooting

From Richard Wigg  
Lahore, May 9

For the first time in four days, the Pakistani Army lifted the curfew in central Lahore for two hours this afternoon in addition to the brief morning break.

But the experiment of "lifting the lid" on local sentiment ended badly when, just before the curfew came on again, a procession formed up in a mattock thoroughfare shouting Opposition slogans and violating the martial law ban on street gatherings.

The shooting, the first since Friday when three people were killed by troops in the Anarkali bazaar region, illustrated the military authorities' difficulties in local public opinion.

This is now evidently a split local public opinion. Opposition supporters emphasize that they are no longer going to go on defying martial law, while many ordinary citizens are only too obviously keen to get back to normal daily life.

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The petition nearly argues that since Mr Bhutto's Government has called a general strike, it must come under the jurisdiction of civil courts.

## Sacrifices needed to keep Romania free

From Dessa Treviranus  
Bucharest, May 9

Romania today marked the centenary of its independence with a ceremony here at which thousands of people cheered as President Ceausescu recalled that the country had had to fight for its freedom.

As well as being an occasion for patriotic pride in the past, the anniversary celebrations illustrated Romania's determination to guard its independence in the future, too.

President Ceausescu spoke for two hours of Romania's struggle for freedom. He referred to the war with Turkey in 1877 as an historical lesson which made clear that a state which practised "politics of domination

and oppression" was doomed to defeat.

Romanians still needed to demonstrate that they were capable of making sacrifices in order to retain their independence, which was not a gift but the result of blood and sweat.

Mr Ceausescu said that in spite of the recent earthquake in which 1,570 people were killed, the economic target for the first four months of this year had been fulfilled by 103 per cent and the annual rate of growth so far this year had increased by 12 per cent. The earthquake had made 35,000 families homeless and although much had already been done in the centre of Bucharest to clear

the rubble, Romanians need foreign aid to repair the damage.

Earnings, which were to have gone up by 18 per cent, will now be increased by 30 per cent. The President's audience applauded this news even more vigorously than the President's references to events in Romania's 2,000-year history.

Yesterday Romania announced a general amnesty affecting more than 23,000 people—either serving sentences or awaiting trial. Mr Ion Goma, a leading human rights activist who was arrested last month, was released from prison but forbidden to speak to foreign journalists, as were several other people who were released at the same time.

## Bukovsky warning to Socialists

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, May 9

Mr Paul Warnke, the principal American disarmament negotiator, goes to Geneva tomorrow to resume negotiations with the Russians on Salt II. The Soviet Union's declaration said that the governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom "recalled that the quadripartite agreement was based explicitly on the fact that the participating nations and their corresponding weapons and post-war nuclear power agreements and decisions were not affected. They reaffirmed that this state of the special area of Berlin could not be modified unilaterally."

The three powers will continue to reject all attempts to put in question the rights and responsibilities which France, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union retain relating to Germany as a whole and to all four sectors of Berlin.

Mr Warnke asserted that the three powers will continue to reiterate "that if one of the four signatory powers were not to respect fully the undertakings confirmed" in the 1971 agreement.

Coming to the crux of the

"They have proposed nothing new."

He strongly disapproved of the negotiating technique under which one side, simply by refusing to answer the other's proposal, could obtain a modification of those proposals without further effort.

Mr. Warnke asserted that there were certain hopeful indications in the long article published in Pravda last month, which denounced the American proposals as unacceptable ones.

The Russians seem to be suggesting that they might accept certain modifications of

the Vladivostok agreement such as a reduction of the ceiling on delivery vehicles, bombers and missiles from 2,400 to 2,300. This would be in accordance with the American desire for a comprehensive arms reduction but would be a small advance.

According to Mr. Warnke, the danger was that if there were no comprehensive arms agreement, advances of technology would render existing agreements obsolete and make a new agreement more difficult.

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the Vladivostok agreement such as a reduction of the ceiling on delivery vehicles, bombers and missiles from 2,400 to 2,300. This would be in accordance with the American desire for a comprehensive arms reduction but would be a small advance.

The best the Americans hope for in Geneva this week, and that is that some progress will be made towards opening a framework for future negotiations. It will be enough of an achievement if the negotiations are adjourned next week and not simply suspended.

He was referring, among much else, to continuing

American progress in perfecting the Cruise missile and the MX 12A warhead for the Minuteman intercontinental missiles, which become operational in October.

In Geneva, Mr. Warnke will discuss the secondary issues with the Russians, such as verification methods and definitions.

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After warnings, the Army opened fire, injuring at least five demonstrators, including a woman.

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## OVERSEAS

# Egyptians and Israelis using live ammunition in war games

from Robert Fiske  
Cairo, May 8  
For more than six weeks, thousands of Egyptian and Israeli troops have been engaged in unprecedented, and so far largely undetected, series of military manoeuvres sometimes using live ammunition only 30 miles from each other, behind the United Nations ceasefire lines in Sinai.

United Nations officials and members of the American Shiekh mission, which monitors the ceasefire in the buffer zone between the two armies, have reported that although there have not been technical ceasefire violations, the shooting constitutes the most serious military activity in the area since the end of the last Middle East war in 1973.

The scale of the military activity can be gauged by the fact that at just one point on the ceasefire lines, at the Abu Qir bridge, some 250,000 Egyptian and Israeli troops and tank guns along improvised ranges began on the Egyptian side of the line at most exactly the moment that President Sadat of Egypt set off for Washington to see President Carter.

According to United Nations and other international sources along the buffer zone, which runs from the Mediterranean east of Port Said down to the Gulf of Suez to Ras Misralla, the live firing of bazookas, mortars and tank guns along improvised ranges began on the Egyptian side of the line at most exactly the moment that President Sadat of Egypt set off for Washington to see President Carter.

When the two leaders began their discussions on the prospects for a Geneva "Middle East peace conference, the Israeli

replied by holding exercises of their own. Both armies have been firing weapons daily since then.

On the Egyptian side, the manoeuvres have been calculated to dispel any Israeli thoughts about the nature of Egypt's desire for a peace agreement. President Sadat has said repeatedly that he believes war could be inevitable if there is no Middle East peace agreement and he has always emphasised that Egypt's diplomacy with the Americans should not be taken as a sign of weakness.

"Our manoeuvres are very large and they are still going on," the senior Egyptian Government source said today. "Our aim is to show the Israelis that if there is no peace agreement we are not going to sit idly.

According to the observers in Sinai, the nightly barrages of live ammunition are becoming more intense. Both sides are bringing up a lot of heavy armour towards the ceasefire lines, one of them said.

"The shooting is going on all night and I've had no sleep for six weeks. The sky is lit up by the guns. None of the shells are going in the direction of the lines but it is a very dangerous business."

The two Egyptian divisions under the command of the Second Egyptian, Second and Third Armies did the Israeli units

## Russia gives no hint of military aid for Ethiopia

Moscow, May 9—Ethiopia and the Soviet Union today pledged support for each other and condemned "the intrigues of imperialists" in the horn of Africa.

The declaration came in a joint communiqué issued at the end of a five-day visit to the Soviet Union by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, the Ethiopian head of state. He left yesterday after a visit to Leningrad.

The two sides committed themselves to deepening their relations and increasing contacts in political, economic, cultural and other spheres, the communiqué said.

Colonel Mengistu, whose military government (Dergue) is facing internal rebellion especially in Eritrea, and border disputes with Sudan and Somalia, was selected by among others Greig, Procter and Barry and Vivian Richards.

"We spoke with the Board representative this afternoon and will make an attempt to meet again next week," Mr Packer said.

"We are not going to sit idly and do nothing," he said.

"The shooting is going on all night and I've had no sleep for six weeks. The sky is lit up by the guns. None of the shells are going in the direction of the lines but it is a very dangerous business."

In a reference to Ethiopia's internal problems the communiqué said that the Soviet side "voiced solidarity with the efforts of the people and leadership of Ethiopia in defending revolutionary gains". The Soviet Union and Ethiopia "condemned the intrigues of the imperialists and other reactionary circles who are our to intensify tensions in north-eastern Africa".

In speeches last Wednesday, President Podgorny, who led the Soviet side at last week's talks, and Colonel Mengistu, said that imperialists and reactionary Arab states had provoked internal strife in Ethiopia.

Colonel Mengistu singled out the United States and Canada for "refusal to withdraw from Ethiopia for its own sake".

He also blamed the Soviet Union for failing to fulfil its obligations to Ethiopia.

According to unconfirmed reports, at least 10 Khmer Rouge troops were killed. The Thai police confirmed the incident today but refused to disclose details of the number of causalities.

Officials said that the initial reports were correct it was the most serious incident since 300 communist troops were apparently crossed the border near the town of Chanthaburi during the weekend in search of food.

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The frontier posts on both sides of the border have been sealed and Thailand does not maintain communications with its communist neighbour.

According to reports from the frontier, Khmer Rouge troops crossed the frontier and surrounded a unit of Thai border patrol police near of Chanthaburi yesterday morning.

The Khmer Rouge apparently

retreated into Cambodia with their dead and wounded after reinforcements, including aerial support, were sent to the area.

Evidence suggests that the Khmer Rouge troops came in search of food. They made an initial raid in the same area last Friday and captured a lorryload of mules. Captured by reinforcements, of the Thai police, they retreated after Khmer Rouge troops shot a Thai villager and retreated with a bullet.

The raids have increased since the Thai Government clamped down on smuggling earlier this year and arrested 40 customs officials who allegedly were involved in illegal trade over the closed frontier.

The frontier posts on both sides of the border have been sealed and Thailand does not maintain communications with its communist neighbour.

A Thai Government spokesman said today that Cambodians had consistently refused to participate in proposed arrangements to ease growing border tensions.

## Cambodians in border gunbattle with Thais

From Peter Hesketh

Bangkok, May 9

Tension on the borders of Cambodia and Thailand erupted in a three-hour gunbattle yesterday after Thai police clashed with Khmer Rouge troops who apparently crossed the border near the town of Chanthaburi during the weekend in search of food.

According to unconfirmed reports, at least 10 Khmer Rouge troops were killed. The Thai police confirmed the incident today but refused to disclose details of the number of causalities.

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Zaire calls on rebels to lay down arms

Kinshasa, May 9—Zaire's radio today urged rebels in the southern province of Shaba to lay down their arms as Government troops were reported to be closing slowly on two rebel-held towns.

"These days are over," the radio said of the insurgents, accused by Zaire of invading the country from Angola with Soviet and Cuban support.

The insurgents, said by Zaire to be former Kasangga gendarmes who supported the secession of Shaba, formerly Kasanga, in the early 1960s and massacred 30 villagers in three bantings.

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civilian oilied hijacker wanted to live in Russia

Tokyo, May 9—An unnamed American who tried to hijack a jumbo jet to Moscow yesterday said that he was disenchanted with his country and wanted to live in the Soviet Union, police here said today.

The American, identified as John Tracy, aged 25, of Wisconsin, seized a woman passenger and held a razor to her neck on a Honolulu-bound Northwest Orient Airlines aircraft after it left Tokyo last night.

He received a head injury when he was overpowered by the cabin crew. None of the 243 passengers or the 14-member crew was hurt.

Police quoted Mr Tracy as saying that "My father has told me Moscow is a good place to live. Everything is electrified and food contains no chemicals."—Reuters.

Protest by UN command against Korean killing

Prague, May 9—The American-led United Nations command yesterday protested against the killing of a South Korean soldier by a North Korean attack which broke an eight-month truce along the Korean Demilitarized Zone last Tuesday.

Major General John Singlaub, the United States Army said the soldier was killed and another wounded in an "entirely unprovoked" ambush by North Korean troops.

General Heui Joo Kyung, the South Korean delegate in Panmunjom, countered that the legend incident was a fabrication cooked up by South Korea in a move to heighten tension and thereby make a pretext for the need for continued presence of American ground troops in South Korea.

Arab Wings recently took the chairman and chief executive of an American natural gas company from Dhahran to Riyadh for a crucial appointment with an Arab minister.

Arab Wings was there again two days later

and, after a short stop in Jeddah, he was on his way to Paris to complete his business appointments.

To reserve your Arab Wings Learjet 35/36 aircraft, telex 1608 ALIA JO or contact any office of ALIA, The Royal Jordanian Airline.

**arab wings**  
THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS JET CHARTER SERVICE

## SPORT

Cricket

## Packer has problems but remains optimistic

By John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent

Sydney, May 9.—The Australian Cricket Board will be solely responsible for the 18 Australians, who have signed lucrative contracts for Test super tests against the Rest of the World, to be held in Australia next month. The 18 men, who have been barred from international cricket, Kerry Packer, the chairman of Television Corporation Limited, said today. He was discussing his remarkable 7.5m dollar (about £4m) venture in which 12 of the world's finest cricketers will be pitted against a team of the world's best players—international cricket will be the stimulus of the series.

"As far as we are concerned, these players will be available to play Test, Sheffield Shield and county cricket when they are not required for the super Tests," he said. "We would like to make it a bit more interesting for the public."

"We spoke with the Board representative this afternoon and will make an attempt to meet again next week," Mr Packer said.

"We are not going to sit idly and do nothing," he said. "The game may attract more of the naturally good players, who, when they leave school, will mean less to the players, too, except financially."

After assessing how these new cavaliers fit in, the Board will decide whether to impose an agreement upon, for example, next winter's projected MCC tour to Pakistan and New Zealand, it is as well to await the announcement of precisely what they have in mind, and who has committed himself, to do what.

Mr Barnes said that, regardless of new contracts signed, next year's Indian tour of Australia and West Indies and Australia's tour of West Indies will be played as planned.

Twenty-two players are to take place between November and December.

Geoffrey Boycott was to be the 36th player but turned down a contract with the Birmingham Lions.

He will hawk autographed miniature bats in Calcutta, one of the world's most impoverished cities, to children, and in the same week, if it is to be the case, will be in Australia.

Mr Barnes said that, regardless of new contracts signed, next year's Indian tour of Australia and West Indies and Australia's tour of West Indies will be played as planned.

The price money for the Tests will be \$100,000 dollars (about £60,000), winner-take-all.

Mr Packer said that additional prize money would be arranged for the other games. He described the arrangement as "a bit of a lottery" and claimed that each player would receive 37,000 dollars for the games to be televised live. Mr Packer will divulge neither the players' salaries nor the grounds where the games are to be played.

But in an attempt to allay possible concern by the ACB and the state associations preventing games on grounds such as the Melbourne and Sydney Cricket Grounds, John Major, a former Australian, has been employed to prepare suitable wickets. Under a state parliamentary act, anybody seeking to play cricket on the Sydney Cricket Ground between the months of October and March must approach the New South Wales Cricket Association, obtain its approval and then approach the SCC and Sports Ground Trust.

The NSW Cricket Association virtually holds an embargo on the Sydney ground during the summer months but Mr Packer remained unconcerned that his team would go to the SCG.

In the election for a constituent assembly, which will draw up Djibouti's constitution, the only list of 65 candidates received 92 per cent of the votes cast despite a call for abstentions from its members in AFR.

A few days ago, the radio said of the insurgents, accused by Zaire of invading the country from Angola with Soviet and Cuban support.

The insurgents, said by Zaire to be former Kasangga gendarmes who supported the secession of Shaba, formerly Kasanga, in the early 1960s and massacred 30 villagers in three bantings.

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A Thai Government spokesman said today that Cambodians had consistently refused to participate in proposed arrangements to ease growing border tensions.

Serjeant takes chance to impress again

By Richard Streeton

HOVE, May 9.—The Australians have scored 111 for one against Sussex.

Australian dollars, player power and other ramifications of the proposed cricketing circus had the conversation floor to themselves here yesterday. Rain allowed only 83 minutes' play to take place before setting in for the day and the abandonment came shortly after three o'clock.

By then Greg and his agent had completed a hard day's work fending off all press inquiries successfully about his future; and Len Maddocks, the Australian manager, was beginning to look weary after spending much of the night on the telephone to Sydney and other parts of the world.

As the disappointed crowd left the ground, some of the Australian players once again donned their shorts and tee-shirts and went home.

For his part, Mr Botha had rather taken everyone's breath away, whether it ever comes to anything or not.

The Australians make five changes for the game against Hampshire at Southampton, tomorrow.

U. S. G. Greig, A. W. Knott, J. A. Show, D. R. Underwood, South Africa.

J. C. Davis, D. R. Underwood, South Africa.

D. R. Underwood, South Africa.

G. J. Procter, E. A. Richards, Pakistan.

A. M. E. Roberts, Pakistan.

Today's cricket

## SPORT

## Rugby Union



Final practice at Twickenham: the assistant manager and coach, John Dawes, discusses tactical moves with some members of the British Lions party for New Zealand.

## Lions must be wary of propaganda about lack of talent in New Zealand

By Richard Streeton

Few sporting stories resemble a crusade from the history books more than a British Isles Rugby Union tour of New Zealand. The Lions leaving London today under the captaincy of Phil Bennett have much in common with those medieval knights: certainly in terms of the physical combat to be anticipated and the total commitment and dedication required.

Plenty of enjoyment, too, whether in the past from cutting off infidels' heads, or nowadays from winning a ruck against the All Blacks. Above all, of course, memories, most notably of those that has not involved a British army crommed into 14 unforgettable weeks. Reference books are obscure on home and away records in the crusades but Bennett's Lions carry an unenviable record compared with their modern predecessors.

When the Lions under John Dawes won the international matches 2-1 with one game drawn in 1971 on their last visit, it was the first time in British Isles history that the Lions had won three series in New Zealand. Three years ago the Lions, on their next tour, rampaged unbroken round South Africa under Willie John McBride. The first winning series against the Springboks came by a 3-0 margin with one draw.

It all combined to set standards of attainment which it is almost unfair to expect Bennett's team to reach quite apart from sport's seldom mentioned qualities of leadership, courage and determination. By the way, in mid-August, play will start again.

The three great Welsh backs, J. P. R. Williams, Gerald Davies, and Gareth Edwards, and the back row of the touring team (from England) and J. F. Slattery (Ireland), were the most significant names among those unavailable this time.

It remains uncertain whether any of them might yet be free to join the Lions' line-up if replacements have to be summoned.

This is not the moment to dwell on the criticisms which greeted some of the selections when the touring party was announced, nor is it reasonable to point out the areas where the team strengths and weaknesses appear to be. The unfriendly comments, arguably, stemmed from the original inclusion of 16 players in the party, including a half Welsh clique or Welsh "Taffie" would be established, detrimental to overall team spirit.

Whatever might have been the case in the past, I do not believe the Lions' administrative abilities of George Burrell, the party's Scottish manager, Dawes, returning to the scene of his greatest triumph as coach, and Bennett, whose game and personality have undergone such a transformation in recent years, need any fear.

More relevant is to wonder whether there is enough experience and brute strength in the front row, particularly on the

woeful propaganda about the lack of talent available.

Last year's tour to South Africa in both 3-1 in South Africa is a series which was unsatisfactory for them from several aspects. Since then there have been sweeping administrative changes in the New Zealand game: a new coach has been appointed and a full team of promising young All Blacks discovered on a highly successful tour to Argentina.

Despite this a constant stream of woeful propaganda about the lack

of talent available has already emanated from Whangarei, at the top of North Island, to Invercargill, at the bottom of South Island.

The Lions' task is to prove that ever for the Lions to be wary.

New Zealand rugby pessimism is much in common with those medieval knights: certainly in terms of the physical combat to be anticipated and the total commitment and dedication required.

There has never yet been a Lions team sent overseas fully representative of British Isles rugby. The tour will be as long as the administrators retain the full-scale fixture pattern established in more leisurely times, several generations ago. This time the touring team do not visit Australia, but they will play 22 matches in New Zealand, including the way home, in mid-August, play will start again.

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PARLIAMENT, May 9, 1977

## Government policies will not be changed as a result of summit

use of Commons

James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, made his first statement at the weekend meeting at Downing Street, in which he reiterated the seven target areas the government had "aligned themselves" to. Action was set out in full in the New Year. Some time has elapsed (he said) since the meeting in February, and there was a general wish among the leaders of the major industrial democracies to consult, exchange experiences and ideas to harmonise as far as possible responses to our shared problems, recognising that our welfare is based on together. Our welfare had been agreed on a common analysis, and so a common approach.

We have been able to share our views with the new American administration, and review the state of the world's economy and our own economy and our policies. We have reviewed our policies to combat inflation and unemployment and discussed the political situation to see what would be more appropriate to safeguard the world against risks.

Mr Andrew Rook (Worley, East Lancs.)—Does the Prime Minister believe that not only Comecon countries but also Japan are more ready, more willing to accept our imports on the same terms as we accept theirs?

Mr Callaghan.—These matters were discussed with the Japanese Prime Minister present, and I had a bilateral discussion with him about relationships with that country particularly on a trade basis?

The Japanese Prime Minister was certainly one who pointed out the problems of the existing situation in the world from his perspective, and I think the United Kingdom should take a narrow, to conquer their own problems of unemployment?

Mr Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C)—As the priority seems to be unemployment, did he get the Japanese Prime Minister to support protectionism either generally or narrowly, to conquer their own problems of unemployment?

Mr Callaghan.—We are all under pressure in this area. The President has recognised that there must be some kind of limitation on trade but not in the case of others. I think in all cases there will be certain political decisions that will be taken by governments.

By standing together, the emphasis on employment is still there. But in the community, it is not just a little frayed, it is a little edges in a number of cases, but I think we have achieved more success than I would have expected in this field.

President Carter, like the Prime Minister, agreed that one should not pest too much in practical terms emerge from a summit? The latest value of the is the measure, and understanding between leaders of the great industrial nations, which in itself is welcome.

Will Mr Callaghan be bringing forward any practical proposals as a result of this summit?

Perhaps the most practical items emerge, which we all welcome, the help to the third world and a decision to establish a fund to combat inflation.

Callaghan.—It is true that the numbers are similar. The Prime Minister of Japan had in London in the thirties and made an important contribution to the problem of unemployment. It is totally dissimilar from the period when we had the problems in 1973.

For these reasons that the role of government, and the importance of the negotiations, I am in favour of this summit. I do not think enough credit has been given to the world for the progress that have been achieved, and we think the pressures for which heads of government have been from their own people to introduce restrictive and protective measures. I think it has in a common perception of the fact that this would lead the world to something much more like the thirties.

Callaghan.—I am not in favour of this summit, and the problems are 1973.

It is for these reasons that the role of government, and the importance of the negotiations, I am in favour of this summit. We do not think enough credit has been given to the world for the progress that have been achieved, and we think the pressures for which heads of government have been from their own people to introduce restrictive and protective measures. I think it has in a common perception of the fact that this would lead the world to something much more like the thirties.

Callaghan.—It is true that the numbers are similar. The Prime Minister of Japan had in London in the thirties and made an important contribution to the problem of unemployment. It is totally dissimilar from the period when we had the problems in 1973.

On the practical proposals, one of the most important matters to arise was to agree to monitor rates of growth of world trade countries, especially those growing faster so that they fall short of what they are committed to take new measures to ensure they attain that rate.

What is important as a means to enhance confidence and stability in a business community and elsewhere where investment decisions are taken.

We are working on a number of occasions to bring about a successful conclusion to CIEC. There are matters as the stabilization of grain export prices, if it can be achieved; funds for assistance to countries to assist them to recover from the economic difficulties which have suffered more in any of us.

To those who are in doubt, I say it is not our job at these meetings to produce a blueprint for the future. What we have done is to put a political impetus to the direction we are to go and it should be fed into the various international bodies, the IMF,

OECD, UNCTAD, and various other bodies of which we are part of the membership to ensure that they get results.

David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, moved the second reading of the Bill to stop the sale of title Lord of the Manor.

use of Lords

Earl of Kinnoull (C), moving the second reading of the Sale of title Bill, said it was not an attempt to abolish the ancient title of lordship of the manor. It would be in removing certain responsibilities which existed.

The first objective was to help protect certain public or quasi-public land against damage: the large greens and the lands included in the Bill. The second objective was to put an end to the practice of letting specific areas of land without permission. Many parish councils (the said) strongly that these ancient proud titles which stem from the heart of our heritage should be offered as a raffle for a local lottery, and the proceeds of the raffle should be used to support the local communities and might be encouraged to develop recreational facilities on village greens. Sales by raffle was a scandal.

Lord Wells-Pestell, Lord of Woking, said that since experience had

## British exporters want to see a change of attitude in Japan

British industry was making substantial efforts to export to Japan but could do even better if there were certain changes of attitude on the part of Japan. Mr Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, said during questions about his visit to Japan.

Over the last five months, in increasing terms the value of British exports to Japan has risen by 42 per cent over the equivalent period in the previous year, the minister said, during questions about his visit to Japan.

Mr Douglas Boyle (Nelson and Colne, C)—What is your opinion of the constitution of Japan? Government going to make to the study on the danger of nuclear proliferation?

Mr Callaghan.—We are in a favourable position to make a contribution on this matter because we are in the forefront of nuclear technology. A large part of the small group has been set up on this matter.

When we get the report inside four months, we shall be able to see if we can proceed to the next stage on which President Carter is so interested. In the cycle of events, the Japanese have agreed to a common analysis, and so a common approach.

We have been able to share our views with the new American administration, and review the state of the world's economy and our own economy and our policies. We have reviewed our policies to combat inflation and unemployment and discussed the political system that will be needed to reach a common conclusion.

Mr Andrew Rook (Worley, East Lancs.)—Does the Prime Minister believe that not only Comecon countries but also Japan are more ready, more willing to accept our imports on the same terms as we accept theirs?

Mr Callaghan.—These matters were discussed with the Japanese Prime Minister present, and I had a bilateral discussion with him about relationships with that country particularly on a trade basis?

Mr Michael Nentwich (Romford, C)—When invisible earnings are taken into account our total trade with Japan is in surplus.

Mr Dell.—It is clear that the invisible earnings retained in this country, although they do not come anywhere near balancing our imports from Japan.

Mr Joan Evans (Aberdare, Lab)—Would he have consultations with the Department of Industry to

keep an eye on those industries which have been set up by Japan in this country, which are assembly plants, using imported components from the Far East?

Mr Dell.—That is a matter for the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr Eric Varley). The Department of Industry has brought pressure to bear on Japanese investors in this country to use locally made components.

Mr John Nott (chief Opposition spokesman on Trade) (St Ives, C)—Have the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Industry given any indication that they would wish to give the multilateral trade negotiations a further boost and to go ahead with reducing non-tariff barriers to our exports which are considerable in all those countries?

Mr Dell.—I discussed this matter during a recent visit to Washington with the Japanese Minister of Finance (Hydrocarbon oil etc) were designed to reduce the Sip tax on petrol only and not on Derv and to provide that the Sip per gallon increase in petrol would take place on August 1.

He said the cost of the amendment was £140m in public sector borrowing requirement terms for 1977-78. This need to be compared with the loss of revenue for 1977-78 if the Ways and Means resolution had been carried, which would have been £800m.

The reason for the lower cost was two-fold. First it reduced the Sip on petrol only, and not on Derv, and secondly it dealt with this year, while the Ways and Means resolution was not in favour of an increase this year because this year they could be then thoroughly irresponsible selves?

Mr David Howell, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs (Guildford, C)—Mr. Barnett is dragging himself into a wrong conclusion and distorts the facts?

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Mr Barnett is entitled to be irresponsible as he likes, and I am entitled to expose his irresponsibility.

Mr Howell.—There was to ensure that the reduction went to the motorists, and not to petrol suppliers.

He hoped suppliers would note the will of the House because they would be bound by price control to pass on tax cuts to the consumer. He said that if the Opposition amendment was accepted, it would not take effect until the date of Royal Assent whenever that would be.

Until that time, they would legally be obliged to continue collecting taxes under the Ways and Means resolution.

That was one reason they had not inserted a date earlier than Royal Assent. They had thought it better to put a specific date, the earliest date possible for Royal Assent. That would avoid kind of difficulties and administrative uncertainties which would be involved if the Opposition amendment was accepted.

The cost of the opposition amendment, including the date May 31, would add another £30m to the public sector borrowing requirement in 1977-78 whereas the Government amendments minimized that problem.

He hoped that suppliers (he said) take all necessary steps to see that motorists benefit and if they do those ministers will be ready to take those steps.

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## Childminding has become fashionable, but it can't be done on the cheap

With public expenditure constraints effectively applying firm brakes to expansion in day care for the under-fives, childminding has suddenly become a fashionable topic. Ministers have enthusiastically taken up the idea of expanding childminding services as a low cost alternative to providing more nurseries or nursery schools.

Local authorities are beginning to take a keener interest by providing training, some social work support and, occasionally, the use of toy libraries.

The interest in childminding has, however, produced a flow of research reports at point consistently to two broad conclusions. First, the standard of childminding in Britain is depressingly low even when the minder is registered, has had some training and enjoys some support from the local social services department. Second that if the quality of care provided by minders is to be improved it cannot be done on the cheap.

These findings have led to numerous demands that minders should be employed directly by social services departments and regarded as part of the day care staff. The idea has been suggested privately because it is believed that most minders offer a poor service because they are underpaid, work intolerably long hours, and are given far too little support from the social services.

The report of the first experiments to try out the idea, in the London borough of Lambeth, is published today by the Department of the Environment (*The Groveay Project: An experiment in Salaried Childminding*, IAS/LA/17, £1.60). The experiment was part of the department's series of inner area studies.

Mrs Phyllis Willmett of the Institute of Community Studies thought up the idea after visiting a creche maternale in France. In her view, the most important result is that the project demonstrates the potential contribution people in the local community can make to the official services, given support and encouragement.

The project broke new ground in several ways. Most importantly, it was centred on a local authority child Groveys which provided training, advice, toys and regular contacts with professional staff. Nursery staff visited minders in their own homes,

often bringing nursery children with them. The minders regularly took the children to the nursery.

Unlike most minders, who tried to work in isolation from each other and most support services, they were able to meet each other regularly and soon after the project began spontaneously organized their own weekly social evenings. They were paid £20 a week (now £30) plus a daily expenses allowance of 50p for the second or third child they were minding.

Recruiting proved difficult, in spite of extensive local publicity. The aim was to create a team of 12 to 14 minders able to care for 30 children, but recruitment was slow and the project began with two minders. Eventually 10 were recruited and trained but two resigned. The number of places for children fluctuated with the number of minders available; the maximum number of places was 22. For most of the time the project was being monitored, there were eight minders available providing 18 places for children.

Most of the minders recruited were women who would not have considered minding in ordinary circumstances. Six were already in paid jobs, and four took a cut in salary when they became minders. None were working in any type of child care job, and most had no qualifications at all. They were given a six-week training course which gave them both a period of close daily contact with day care staff and an opportunity to increase their knowledge and strengthen skills in good child care practice.

The children to be minded were all taken from the priority list of the Groveay nursery, and were considered to be in great need of a place because their mothers needed to go out to work. In practice, some of the mothers were found to be using the project as an inexpensive and good quality of day care for their children without having any intention of finding work. Their children were discharged from the project.

Most of the minded children were in our parent families, often living in poorer housing conditions than the minders. Some arrived irregularly, poorly dressed and hungry, and the minders found it difficult to understand or tolerate the attitudes of their parents in apparently missing

**Pat Healy**  
Social Services Correspondent



## Getting value for money out of the social services

This year the country will spend £993m on personal social services. Despite that expenditure few not professionally involved could tell you what services are provided as a result of that spending, or give any clear indication of the priorities that they favour. In this respect, social services differ from other local authority services like education and housing about which most of us have definite opinions.

The early seventies saw an explosive growth in social services expenditure as a result of the reorganization which followed the Seebohm Report with double-digit growth rates commonplace. Yet this increase failed to produce evidently better services. The percentage of qualified social workers obstinately remained under 40 per cent as the expansion of trusts lagged behind the expansion in local authority establishment figures. The demands which the 1969 Children & Young Persons Act and the 1970 Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act would make on resources were ludicrously underestimated in both local and central government, and the failure of departments to meet the needs of these client groups drew public criticism. The succession of child care tragedies which followed the death of Maria Colwell called into question the competence of social workers even in those areas where their expertise had previously gone unquestioned. Now the question of local government spending threatens even the most intrepid of the existing inadequate levels of provision.

Faced with an increasing proportion of elderly in the population, especially those over 75, with rising demand fuelled by unemployment and inflation, and with pressures from the police and magistrates for more residential provision for juvenile offenders, social services departments urgently need to develop a long term strategy if they are not going to reel from one crisis to another.

The structure of local government does not readily accommodate a radical reassessment of resource allocation. The dearth of public debate about priorities in social services means that present patterns of provision tend to be perpetuated by the professional pursuit of incremental budgeting which adds new developments to existing services justified because they always have been provided. Corporate management too has failed to break into the rigidities of demarcation between departments.

How then can a successful strategy be developed? From central government there needs to be a moratorium on any new legislation affecting personal social services until resources expand to meet existing demands. The role of politicians for creating solutions reached its nadir in the 1975 Children's Act, renamed a

for instance, more, not less, juvenile offenders would be cared for while remaining in their own homes. This is not only good economic sense when a bed in a community home costs over £100 each week but offers better prospects of success with offenders. The clamour from police and magistrates for a return to the golden days of approved schools with their 70 per cent failure rate is indeed a triumph of hope over experience.

Cutting residential expenditure would also mean that more old folk would remain at home supported through daily visits from home help, meals services and volunteers or in sheltered housing. Admission to an old people's home would become a transitional phase while community help was mobilized or physical health restored instead of the final resting place it so often is now. Concentrating residential care on those for whom there really is no alternative would demand higher standards of training from residential staff. It is a national scandal that we enshrine the physical and emotional well-being of our most vulnerable citizens to almost wholly untrained staff. Twenty-four out of every 25 staff have no relevant training.

Within the finance made available by political decisions at central and local government level, there remains crucial professional discretion. At present over 50 per cent of the social services' budget goes on residential care. Divided by client groups the elderly take up the largest slice of expenditure. Bland phrases about concentrating scarce resources on essential services and abandoning others like subsidizing children in independent schools or the wilder excesses of leisure and recreation departments. Above all, it means giving up the political cowardice of across the board cuts, and instead making choices about which services really are crucial to the community.

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Social workers feel besieged by the events of recent years. They feel that they have been let down by politicians, by the media and by the public which does not understand them. Yet the services they help to provide are essential to the maintenance of a humane and civilized community. Their ability to provide those services depends, however, on political choices. The sum of £993m is too much to leave to professionals alone.

**Terry Bamford**

The author is assistant general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers.

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E.C.426, E.C.427, E.C.428, E.C.429, E.C.430,  
E.C.431, E.C.432, E.C.433, E.C.434, E.C.435,  
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Praise or blame? We will all know at the end of the Queen's celebrations

# The Thunderer to the rescue: or the role The Times played in the first jubilee

All but the most detached citizens will have realized by now that the official celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee started this week, though it may seem to have been with us for longer.

The origin of the custom, especially the fact that *The Times* was an originator of the modern jubilee, is less well known. Whether this queen bee from the bonnet of the Thunderer deserves praise or blame will be a matter of opinion, certainly by the end of the year.

The jubilee is generally taken to have its ancient origin in the Hebrew jubilee year. According to Leviticus a loud trumpet shall proclaim liberty throughout the country for the tenth day of the seventh month after the day of seven sabbaths of years, or, to put it another way, 49 years.

*Jubel* means a ram in Hebrew, and refers to the trumpet of ram's horn with which the jubilee year was proclaimed. By erroneous popular etymology in translations of the Old Testament this word was assimilated to the Latin *tubula*, to let out whoops, or invoke with shouts, or halloo.

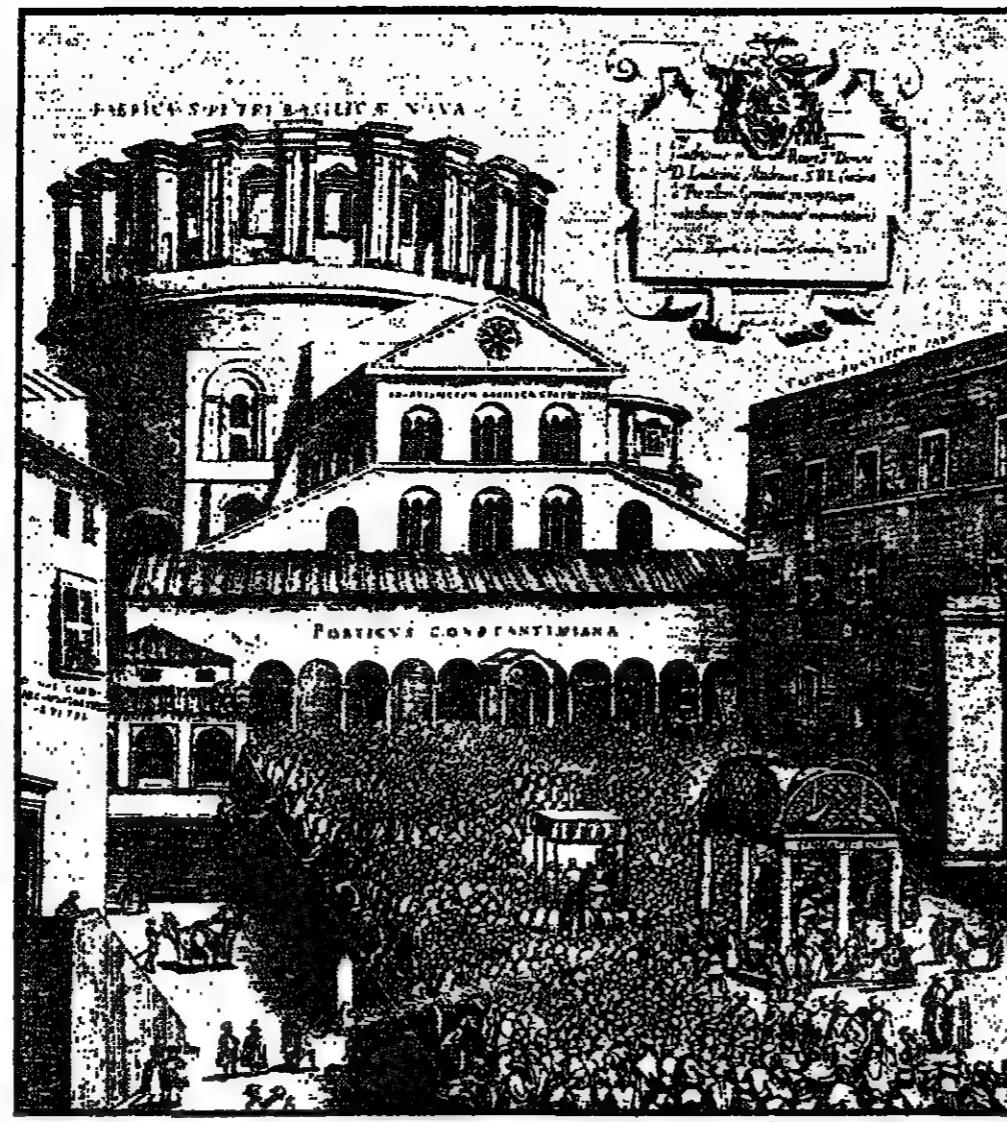
However, the practice of celebrating the anniversary of the accession of ruler is far older than Leviticus. The Hebrew festival in ancient Egypt during the third millennium BC was held 20 years after a Pharaoh's accession in order to demonstrate his continued vitality and fitness to rule. The most interesting of the Egyptian jubilee ceremonies was a ritual race that the Pharaoh ran over a prescribed distance: the ancient equivalent of what is today called a wal-kaboot.

Plans were held up, partially by accusations that it was merely a political manoeuvre designed to divert attention from the incompetence of the government, and partly by a dispute over whether the Lord Mayor should give a dinner.

One of the supporters of a dinner thought that he had routed his opponents when he announced with more greed than accuracy, that the dictionary definition of a jubilee was "a hearty and solemn feast". It was finally decided that there should be a dinner, and Mr Marriott had said that he thought it "highly improper to separate with empty stomachs after departing from a cursed old church". These and other arguments were paraded and abused in *The Times*, even in its sad days already the tribal wrestling-ground of the ruling class.

At first no name had been invented for the proposed celebration. But on October 13, 1809, in a letter to *The Times* signed "Jubal", the writer explained the institution of the jubilee in the Old Testament, and pointed out that the King, while celebrating the 49th anniversary of his accession, was indeed entering upon his jubilee year, set apart by Leviticus as a period of rest, mercy, and pardon.

Why not call the celebration the King's Jubilee? Four days later *The Times* used the headline "Jubilee" above an article setting out the form of the prayer to be used on this occasion. Thereafter the term "jubilee" passed into its general modern use.



The scene in the Atrium of St Peter's  
at the opening of the Jubilee of  
1575 by Gregory XIII

The medieval Popes adopted the idea of a jubilee year from the Old Testament. The first of which we have a clear record was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. The main attraction, in addition to superstition about the significance of round numbers in marking the passage of time, was the extraordinary, even hundredfold, indulgence gained by anybody who could contrive to put

1862, when Victoria had been on the throne for 25 years. But she was still sunk in fathomless mourning for Albert's death. Thereafter the term "jubilee" passed into its general modern use.

The next possible occasion to celebrate a jubilee came in

her fiftieth anniversary again by a letter in *The Times*. In the letter Baron Bray of Leveson pointed out that in June 1885 the Queen would be entering upon the fiftieth year of her reign, which, by ancient custom and practice, he asserted impressively but not entirely

accurately, was a year of jubilee. It would therefore be appropriate to set in motion plans and preparations to celebrate the event.

These plans began to include the rich examples of British dottiness that have since become traditional to the event: at Liss in Hampshire they boiled an ox whole in a gigantic tank while brass bands played *Rule Britannia* and *God Save the Queen* for seven hours on scaffolding above it; the Fife & Drumming Works to the main chance: "We Wed Dye For Ye"; awful odes dripped in cascades from the presses.

## Commas and capitals

Ten years later the Queen was still on the throne, and *The Times* came to the rescue by inventing another indispensable term of jubilees. In a leader on New Year's Day 1897 it wrote: "Whatever fortune the year may bring to the British Empire, it will remain ever memorable in our annals as that of the solemn celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, if, as we all trust, HER MAJESTY

will be in health enough to preside over the great locomotives thunder along a stretch of track some 400 to 600 yards long.

Moreover, visitors of a particular romantic disposition can actually have (for a small fee additional to the price of admission) a ride on the footplate of the great locomotives

along at a speed of some 15 mph.

What animates human beings to behave like this? To persuade themselves, quite sincerely, that

there exists a "serious and imminent danger" when, for eight years past, had been provided daily, in no fewer than

120,000 cases, that there was no

danger at all, whether serious or slight, and whether imminent or far off? What itch to spoil life for others, this self-delusion to disguise the itch; when unoccupied yearning to use the tiny power given to them, run through their minds?

What *hutrid* was at work in the claims that they knew what the tribunal would decide, in the reckless ignorance of their own

serious and imminent danger of making fools of themselves, and being clearly seen to have done so in the obscurity with which they insisted on their orders, being obeyed?

What is wrong, with this country, if, in a really innocent pleasure, of the kind that releases the happy child in adults and gives a glimpse of happy childhood to children, is such a threat that honest men must persuade themselves that the pleasure has got something to do with Section 22 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, and take action under the same measure to prohibit it?

The evidence before the tribunal revealed that the inspector had not disclosed his identity or position to anyone at the museum, had not ridden on a locomotive himself, had made no enquiries as to such matters as the safety record of the place, the qualifications of the drivers or the condition of the engine, and had in general behaved in a manner which the members of the tribunal, no expert of words, roundly described as "futile". As for the deputy inspecting officer who had issued the prohibition on no other evidence than a single telephone call from the museum's "furiae" visitor, he had been under a statutory obligation, if he wanted to issue an order, to believe that there was a risk of serious personal injury from the activity to be prohibited, and that such risk was imminent.

The order having been issued, one of the trustees complained. And well he might: at the attempt to stop so harmless and pleasant an activity, made by people who must surely be in the running for some kind of prize, if there is one given for the best definition of the adage that Satan finds work for idle hands to do. On receipt of the complaint, the order-issuing deputy inspector, and the original visitor himself, now

middle floor are the Europeans, officials in the service of their capital. For the bottom storey, lackeys and labourers are needed. That is why Turkey is being "dragged in" to the bottom storey." He said Turkey should join in an Islamic common market instead.

More recently he has pursued the Education Minister, Mr Ali Naki Demirel—member of Mr Denrell's Justice Party—into making changes that increase the religious element in schools. There are 244 religious schools now, with 50 more on the way. In a country where nearly half the 40,000,000 population is illiterate, and many villages in the east of the country are still without schools, it can well be argued that any school is better than no school. The critics, on the other hand, say the religious and right-wing rhetoricians forcing Turkish education back into the scholasticism of the dark ages."

In effect Mr Erbakan and Mr Demirel are at odds over most domestic and foreign policy issues, and there seems to be little the Prime Minister can do.

Burton: "If Mr Erbakan does take advantage of his power and does carry his Islamic and nationalist views to the extreme, it would be wrong to suggest that Turks who do not share those extreme views do not at the same time share some of the sentiment behind them."

Robin Laurence

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Nocturne

First of an occasional series.

The sauce is mixed; the plate is warm; the water piping hot.

"Goodnight!" cried the Lobster.

As I dropped him in the pot.

Christopher Logue

them came, and one by one they chased to Alastair Cooke—himself at times almost overwhelmed by the events about themselves, their acting, their origins, and the effect of it all on them.

All the time the phones were ringing as viewers pledged money for the voluntary supported network. The "million dollar party" raised more than any appeal had ever brought in before.

The cast were treated like royalty for a whole week, crushed by cheering, eager crowds wherever they went. Three of them came down to Washington to meet some 1,000 *Upstairs, Downstairs* addicts who braved the rain, ignored the confessions of a former patsy, to see in person Simon Williams, Jean Marsh and Christopher Beeny at the television studio. (James Rose and Edward to them.)

The stars did their stuff gallantly. In five consecutive half-hour sessions groups of 300 were ushered in to the strains of the stately music.

The title-page of a new periodical explores: "After the Flood is a quarterly publication coming out three times per year, in May and October. The 1977 issue is due in May."

PHS

Bernard Levin

# A black eye for Bumble for getting so steamed up

willing to admit his identity, called upon the museum's curator. They insisted that the order must stand, that the joyrides must cease, and that "there was not a glimmer of hope that the industrial tribunal would uphold an appeal".

This claim was on the face of it rash, and proved in the event baseless. For the tribunal unanimously upheld the appeal, and in the course of doing so delivered a coda and immensely satisfying thrashing to the busybodies. They criticized, as I have said, the character of the original visit; the visitor's failure to discover even the most elementary facts about the business. Wal likewise established. But his behaviour, the tribunal ruled, would not in itself however displease him.

Bressingham is the home of the Bressingham Steam Museum, which houses not samples of steam (a notoriously unusable substance, impossible to preserve for long in a glass case) but retired steam locomotives. A number of these, including the Royal Scot, are in motion, chugging back and forth on the footplate for eight years; in that time 120,000 people had taken such rides; only one injury had ever occurred, and that was a slight grazed to the leg of a lady who slipped while alighting from a stationary engine. Bumble was seen packing, and the museum's authorities are now claiming the legal costs they incurred and compensation for the loss of five months' revenue, a sum estimated to be between £1,000 and four thousand pounds. Oh my, they had better get it in.

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PHS

## The Times Diary

### Left with nothing to wear

I had not realized until yesterday what a sadly underdressed affair this silver jubilee will be. The occasion was the opening of the exhibition Moss Bros have staged to mark the event. It shows a complete range of peers' coronation robes, plus a few extra trappings, such as royal heralds' and Beefeaters' costumes. The show had to be closed on Monday. Moss Bros explained, because there is no special finery to be donned for the jubilee.

Nor are the coronation robes on show ever likely to be worn. The peers' velvets, the firm estimated, cost at least £1,000 each. The peeresses', complete with the longer train Norman Hartnell introduced when economizing on the coronets in 1953, now costs twice as much.

The velvet robes are only worn at coronations, but next time, Moss Bros calculate, economies are likely to go much further than the mere substitution of a cap of state for the old-time coronet. For one thing the aristocracy are unlikely to be able to lay hands on any-

thing to wear underneath their robes.

At the last coronation we did 400 or 500 suits of velvet court dress at £25 for the day," confided Ted Evers of the uniform department. "But we ran short of velvet, and now they have all been cut up for hunting caps. We made more money that way."

Evers recalls nostalgically the glory of jubilees past. "We were up all night for George V's in 1935," he reminisced, "polishing brass buttons and breastplates. And we had all the gold braid to clean, with cyanide and a toothbrush. There are now sufficient disabled water skiers for Evers, helped by the Sports Council, to form a national association for them.

Edge was among the guests at a Sports Council reception yesterday to launch a new book full of sound advice for the disabled who wish to take up water sports. An advisory panel set up by the Council to produce the book estimates that there are at least 1,000 seriously disabled who are actively messing about in boats.

Alf Morris, minister for the

exhibitions in Australia and Japan", said a senior Moss Bros. employee. "They are very keen on such things in those countries, and it is funny how they just tend to disappear. Of course, we have to think of through our theatrical costumes subsidiary. They have a demand for all sorts of things."

By the time the next coronation comes around, Moss Bros. will be reduced to wearing their parliamentary robes, mere superfine woolcloth as compared with genuine velvet.

Sporting

Tony Edge is an enthusiastic young man who recently appeared in a film demonstrating his considerable skills, none of which would be remarkable were it not for the fact that he has only one leg. There are now sufficient disabled water skiers for Edge, helped by the Sports Council, to form a national association for them.

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Alf Morris, minister for the

move to induce the West to step up their contribution, the pay-off has yet to come.

Mr Erbakan's fanatical nationalism makes him bitterly opposed to any closer links with the European Community. He once likened it to the Assembly to a three-storey house: "On the top floor live the Zionists. On the



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## HOW TO CHANGE COMMUNISTS

The west is now getting a great deal of advice from Soviet and east European dissidents on how to conduct its foreign policy. The advice falls roughly into two schools of thought. One demands a much tougher stance and accuses the west of moral turpitude. This school is represented mainly but not entirely by Russians with experience of prison camps, such as Mr Solzhenitsyn and Mr Bukovsky, whose eloquent Berlin speech we publish today on another page. The other school, while also holding that the west should bargain firmly, lays more emphasis on fostering a climate of political detente in the belief that this is more conducive to the liberalization of the communist systems. The two schools share the medium-term aim of gaining greater freedom for the people of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe but they differ on the short-term tactics for achieving this and on the long-term vision of the type of society which they hope will eventually emerge.

The main reason for the disagreement on tactics is that they start from different premises. Those who believe that the communist systems contain some seeds of regeneration and liberalization, as seemed to be the case in Czechoslovakia in 1968, tend to look for an international climate in which these seeds will sprout. They believe that a lower level of confrontation encourages liberalizers within the system. Those who believe the system is irredeemably evil or simply bureaucratically pernicious believe it can be driven to change only by pressure from abroad and from citizens working outside the system. This view has won more converts in eastern Europe since the hopes of spontaneous liberalization, which were so prevalent in the 1960s, have failed.

On the whole western policy has sought a middle road which mixes concessions with pressure in the belief that total confrontation leads more easily to war and also deprives the west of levers and bargaining counters which

can be gained through a measure of cooperation. The compromises which this policy inevitably involves has provoked a lot of criticism from the tougher school of dissidents. It is difficult to take issue with this criticism without seeming to reject it, but the attempt must be made. In many ways the criticism is both valid and valuable. It cannot be shrugged off merely because it comes from men whose crucial experience is of prison, not diplomacy.

In the case of Mr. Bukovsky it comes from a man who has suffered with enormous courage to defend his integrity and to tell the world about the torture of political dissidents in Soviet mental hospitals. He has intimate knowledge of the small concessions and betrayals that lead to greatest ones, of the importance of moral conviction and the value of western support. He has earned his right to speak, and the criticisms offered by him and those who think like him is important because it forces us to confront the moral purposes of our diplomacy, to ask whether certain compromises are being made merely for the sake of a more comfortable life, and whether we are really using the levers we claim to have won through negotiation. It also reminds us that Russians on both sides of the official fence are liable to see willingness to compromise as a sign of weakness where we see it as strength, so that their whole approach to diplomacy can be different from ours.

Where Mr. Bukovsky is wrong is not so much in his advice as in his understanding of what the western countries have been trying to do, which is not all that different from what he is trying to do. The question is mainly one of means rather than ends. The sterile confrontation in Europe and the oppression of eastern Europe cannot be changed by war and was not noticeably changed for the better during the extreme confrontations of the cold war, when moral absolutism was at its height on both sides. Improvements have come only since the

level of enmity has diminished and the willingness to talk, trade and to negotiate has increased. Inevitably this has meant compromises and more contact with governments, but whereas Mr. Bukovsky sees this as a betrayal of peoples it has seemed to western governments a way of helping peoples.

The same principle applies to the Helsinki agreements which Mr. Bukovsky criticizes for being aimed at cooperation with rulers rather than ruled, and for providing loopholes through which the west can make yet more concessions. Here he is utterly wrong. The western countries negotiated very firmly and in the end successfully to ensure that the freer flow of people and information which the agreement was supposed to foster was not subordinated entirely to government control or confined to official exchanges. All Soviet attempts to exclude references to individuals or to emphasize the rights of governments in this field were defeated. The actual texts of the agreement came out almost wholly to the advantage of the west.

Implementation is another matter. The aim of the Belgrade meeting which starts in June, and is likely to drag on for many months, is to monitor implementation which so far has been disappointing. The western countries are not as Mr. Bukovsky alleges, preparing to give up demands which they might have made. Nor is there much sign that they are swallowing false information. What they are trying to do is to find the best way of promoting implementation of the agreement while keeping the whole process going. Perhaps they will not find the right mixture, or will not try hard enough, which is why they should listen to Mr. Bukovsky's warnings. But if they had headed the views of his friends and allies at an earlier stage they would not have entered the Helsinki negotiations at all, which would have deprived him of the very texts he is now citing. He gives no credit where credit is due.

## DO WE REALLY LOVE GUMMY LITTLE ATOMS?

If we stop to think, we all know that a gift and a free gift are two different things. "Free" as in "free school," "free NHS treatment" or "free Democratic Republic" is often an insidious qualifier. But the distinction is easily overlooked; even the great Oxford Dictionary, having defined a gift in terms of transfer of property voluntarily and without any valuable consideration, etc., refers to a "free gift" in passing without noting that it is using the word in a sense unacknowledged by itself. The "free" kind of gift is merchandise offered in exchange for trading stamps or coupons given instead of a simple cash discount on the purchase of other items. The supplier is obliged to redeem stamps returned to him, and the "gifts" are ultimately paid for out of the retailer's profits—that is, by the customers themselves.

Surely everyone would rather have cash? It is clear that they would not. The Tesco supermarket chain, the largest retailing customer of the largest supplier, has just decided to withdraw from the trading stamp business. The rapid expansion of the 1960s is a thing of the past, and the petrol crisis of 1974 was a severe setback. But the business is by now so large and so diverse, and the fact that many shoppers actually enjoy collecting the stamps is so well established, that the rapid disappear-

ance of the gummy little atoms of value is not to be looked for. Tesco believe that in these hard times people are becoming keener to receive discounts in a form that they can spend at once and as they wish. The balance of advantage for the retailer may be changing, at any rate for the smaller shops with high overheads that are common in the Tesco chain. Petrol stations that offer cash discounts as an alternative to stamps are also finding that many drivers prefer cash. But somebody somewhere will always be looking for just another hundred stamps to fill up his book.

It is not necessary to be unduly censorious. Trading stamps clearly provide innocent pleasure to innumerable patient philatelists. They are an aid to saving, though an inefficient one. It is said that 71 per cent of the adult population collect them, though it would be unsafe to assume that all or even most of them do so willingly. If one leaves the things on the counter they look like an insulting tip; they resemble money too much to throw away without a pang; usually they end up stuck fast to the frozen peas. The trading stamp companies, like other enterprises uneasily concerned to affirm their respectability, have gone into sponsorship of sports and young people's activities. Green Shield provide special extra discounts for charitable causes (a scheme that more than 12,000 groups took advantage of in 1975). The Act of 1964 eliminated the worst abuses of the trade. It also gave the holder the right to insist on the redemption in cash of any number of stamps worth more than 25p (this is not a requirement that the companies have been much concerned to publicize).

As a general stimulus to trade, stamps may have done the economy some service. Perhaps it is more likely that their main effect has been to redistribute trade among competitors, and to the disadvantage of the small shopkeeper. In several EEC countries their use is severely restricted on the ground that they tend to restrict competition and assist the growth of monopoly. They certainly constitute a disguised loan from the purchaser to the supplier until he redeems his stamps (and a genuine free gift if he fails to do so). They are often accused of keeping prices artificially high, though in strict terms it is not clear that they do. In a decade or two, no doubt, the EEC will adopt rules for their restraint throughout the Community. In the meantime there is every prospect that they will survive, to delight the collector and vex the rest of us. It is worth knowing that if one uses tweezers when steaming them apart, one is less likely to scald one's fingers.

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN ATKINSON,  
Treasurer of the Labour Party,  
House of Commons.

## ELECTORAL METHODS IN SIERRA LEONE

For a government party to contest an election with a genuine opposition party is so rare an event in Africa, where "one-party democracy" predominates, that it is sad not to be able to welcome the results of the poll in Sierra Leone as a real voters' choice. On the contrary, a free and fair election would almost certainly have unseated President Stevens's Government. He made sure of its victory of his All Peoples Congress by methods akin to those alleged against President Bhutto in Pakistan—indeed, taking scale into consideration, what happened in Sierra Leone was arguably far worse.

The Sierra Leone Christian Council and the Trade Union Council are demanding an inquiry into violence, intimidation, illegalities and corruption, while it is reported that the Solicitor-General is under pressure to prosecute four ministers on charges of murder committed during the last days of the campaign. The election of thirteen of the Sierra Leone

Peoples Party candidates in the conditions that have prevailed for weeks is itself noteworthy and a testimony to the country's anger. It is typical that, because the APC realizes that it might lose three more seats in Bo (which threw the APC strong arm men out of town) the elections there have been deferred by decree.

President Stevens's APC won 76 seats, of which 50 were unopposed, despite every effort by the SLPP to put up candidates—several of those who tried were jailed. The contrast with the recent elections in the Gambia are complete: there the opposition party fielded a full quiver of candidates in an election reckoned to be perfectly fair, so that Sir Dawda Jawara's victory by three-quarters of the vote is beyond cavil. President Stevens's doubts about his party's chances may be judged from such instances as the use of tear gas at polling stations where the SLPP—in Freetown—did manage to get candidates on the ballot paper. The toll of death and injury will be heavy, and follows

to hence their cars. They do not need to get their bicycles through any sort of safety test comparable to the MOT test for cars and motor-cycles. They are allowed to go on the road without passing so much as a simple test to prove that they know the simple facts of road safety and so on. Finally, a large proportion of cyclists appear to ignore completely traffic signs and to have

no road sense whatsoever, thus endangering not only themselves, but other road users.

Should they be allowed to use the bus lanes? I wonder if they should be allowed to use the roads at all.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HUNTER,  
30 Uckfield Road,  
Sutton, M14  
April 29.

## Planning for bicycles

From Mr John Hunter

Sir, I write in reply to the correspondent who suggested on April 29 that cyclists should be allowed to use bus lanes.

Cyclists are already privileged in several ways. They are not required by law to license their bicycles, as motorists, for instance, are required

to. Hence their cars. They do not need to get their bicycles through any sort of safety test comparable to the MOT test for cars and motor-cycles. They are allowed to go on the road without passing so much as a simple test to prove that they know the simple facts of road safety and so on. Finally, a large proportion of cyclists appear to ignore completely traffic signs and to have

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Should they be allowed to use the bus lanes? I wonder if they should be allowed to use the roads at all.

Yours truly,  
ROBERT BELGRAVE,  
Brisbane House,  
Moor Lane, EC2

## Conservative students

From Mr S. M. Swerling

Sir, Ronald Burt's excellent and timely article (May 5) must strike a responsive chord in a vast majority of Conservatives (notwithstanding the special pleading by your contributors to today's letters column, May 7), and not least among the thousands of Young Conservative Students whose idealism is deserving of a better lead than that seemingly offered by Mr Forsyth of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Mr Forsyth would appear to postulate a somewhat hedonistic approach to everyday life, devoid of any reference to either basic Christian values or traditional Tory precepts; instead he seems to be advancing a form of undiluted Benthamite liberalism.

Mr Forsyth seems to understand the limitations and constraints placed upon the use of private property. For instance, town and country planning laws and compulsory purchase powers, to name but a few, are designed to ensure that there is no such thing as a "freedom to do what you like with your private property," however reasonable this may be. Even testators no longer have an absolute freedom to dispose of their property as they will, because of family provision legislation.

It is therefore specious and dangerous to attempt to draw an analogy between economic and moral freedom, so called, as Mr Forsyth seems to want to do, when the premise upon which the argument is based is so fallacious.

Indeed, it is depressing that some one of Mr Forsyth's evident ability and influence should be preaching such a false doctrine in the same

years faithfully.

S. M. SWERLING,  
Chairman, Political Committee,  
St Marylebone Conservative  
Association.

20 Oldbury Place, W1.  
May 7.

## Labour and the banks

From Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham (Labour)

Sir, Now that the big four banks are to go on the offensive against the Labour Party it must inevitably mean another Mr Cube—albeit this time Mr Moneybags—or even his stepdaughter, Miss Goldie Banks.

Whoever it is they must try to project the image that the banks, as they stand at present, are quite capable of running both their own and the country's affairs quite successfully.

But have they? Why, for instance, was it necessary for the Government to set up the National Enterprise Board? Why didn't the banks go to the rescue of Rolls-Royce, Ferranti, Leyland, Herberts, or any of the other commanding heights of the economy? Whatever happened to British shipbuilding or the aerospace industry? Why didn't the banks run an export guarantee system like the Government?

The answer is that the banks are not at present designed to function in the way I've suggested. That's why the Labour Party have proposed a state banking interest.

But there are many other good reasons too.

Within the next 15 or 20 years Britain will be very near a cashless society. That is to say—it will not be necessary to carry around either cheque books or money. Shops will be fitted with credit terminals wired to a central clearance system.

The point is: it will not be possible in future for any one of the big four to go it alone. And who will provide the national telecommunications network to make this modern concept possible?—The GPO of course.

So why don't we say to the bank customers that if they want a future in a modern, ultra efficient banking system, they had better start thinking in terms of a state bank. Wage earners will want their wages paid through the system which will give them the most universal, less expensive facilities.

But first, the nation will have to ignore their bank manager's advice to vote Tory. Electors will have to vote for the party giving them the best banking system. Come to think of it—if the banks put political leaflets on their bank counters, why not Labour leaflets in post offices, or bus conductors giving out leaflets to their passengers? The possibilities are endless.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN ATKINSON.

Treasurer of the Labour Party,  
House of Commons.

May 6.

From Mr Robert Belgrave

From Mr Robert Belgrave

Sir, Many people in industry support the objectives of a "British Brookings" and will welcome the initiative implied in the letter today (May 6) from Sir Eric Bell and Lord Trevelyan.

Perhaps the American model of Brookings, with its massive resources of scholarship and money, is not well suited to this country's modest means and less formal methods of decision-making. But whatever the merits of diversity, the fact is that the proliferation of institutes dissipates the available effort.

Co-ordinating committees are not enough. If two or three existing institutes with common standards of objectivity would join together, then those who believe in the importance of this idea could concentrate not only their financial support but equally importantly, their intellectual participation.

We would then have an institution which could do for the full range of domestic issues what the Royal Institute of International Affairs already does for external issues, in providing a centre where experts, writers and decision-makers from all sectors of the community and all shades of opinion could come together to seek a consensus on the facts underlying our common problems and even on some of the measures needed to resolve some of them.

Yours truly,

ROBERT BELGRAVE,

Brisbane House,  
Moor Lane, EC2

April 29.

From Mr Jeremy Swift and Mr John Gretton

Sir, The Moroccan Ambassador writes (April 19) "Morocco has not annexed the Sahara. Morocco has

liberated it from Spain and the International Court of Justice recognized its right..." It should be pointed out that while the International Court recognized that there had been legal titles of a sort linking the Sahara and Morocco, it went out of its way to insist that these were not such as to affect the basic issue of self-determination.

JEKYLL SWIFT,  
JOHN GRETTON.

The Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights,  
60 Weymouth Street, WL

May 3.

The Ambassador also stated that the international experts agree

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### After the Summit: restoring incentives

From Sir Derek Ezra

Sir, At their recent meeting, the Seven States regarded it as their most urgent task "to create more jobs while continuing to reduce inflation". They also committed themselves to "sustained non-inflationary growth".

The reconciliation of economic growth with the control of inflation remains the overriding dilemma facing industrialized nations in their domestic and, indeed, external policies.

This dilemma is particularly acute in Britain, where our inflation rate is nearly the highest among major industrialized countries. Is there a way out, without rocking the boat?

There might be a first opportunity of reconciling these objectives in the next phase of oil policy. It is now becoming increasingly clear that a tightly restrictive policy, on the lines of the first two phases, would not be tolerable. The alternative of a free-for-all would have obvious dangers. The debate therefore must be concentrated on the middle course.

I would like to suggest that such a middle course could have the best chance of succeeding if it effectively reintroduced the concept of incentive. If, in other words, we could see a move from a negative to a positive policy in regard to wages and salaries.

Three issues stand out. First, the reduction of the debilitating impact of direct taxation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is whether, in the contemporary world, in which television which might, and possibly did, have an impact on wage rates, the effect of television on the pace of change in the world and the democratization made inevitable by the fact that television is usually received by individuals in a domestic setting, has, yet, barely been grasped by policy makers.

This is a long-term problem: but the immediate problem raised by Mr Hanning's article is whether, in the contemporary world, in which television which might, and possibly did, have an impact on wage rates, the effect of television on the pace of change in the world and the democratization made inevitable by the fact that television is usually received by individuals in a domestic setting, has, yet, barely been grasped by policy makers.

As one who has been concerned

for many years with the world impact of television and actively engaged in the production of television programmes which might, and possibly did, have an impact on wage rates, I must

reassess the need for a new assessment of the world responsibilities of the USA (emphasized by President Carter's attendance at the London summit) and an interesting article

"President Carter adopts the ways of the

American."

In this article, Mr Hugh Hanning, director of the British Atlantic Committee, puts forward the thesis that President Carter, unlike Dr Kissinger, seems to be appealing (notably on such subjects as human rights and





# A Hawkins line by new CEGB chief

By Roger Vielvoe

Energy Correspondent  
Mr Glyn England, in his first public statement after taking over as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board yesterday morning, disclosed that he was opposed to nationalized industries undertaking without compensation unwanted capital projects deemed by government to be in the national interest.

He stressed he was talking about "broad principles" and carefully avoided any comment on the controversy on the advanced ordering of the second stage of the Drax coal-fired power station in Yorkshire that marked the closing weeks in office of his predecessor, Sir Arthur Hawkins.

Sir Arthur provoked a bitter row between the generating board and the Department of Energy by declining to give an undertaking to Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, that he would place an order for the £600m power station without compensation. The CEGB claimed that bringing forward the order by two years could cost up to £180m in extra interest charges, which should be covered by the Government.

Mr England is clearly anxious to improve relations between his board and the Department of Energy but he does not see his new role as pushing through policies that Sir Arthur had opposed. His job, he said, was not to be the servant of the minister but a servant of the

electricity consumer, by doing all he could to hold increases in the price of electricity below the rate of inflation. But in Whitehall, where it is hoped that Mr England will be more flexible in meeting government "requests", his words must have an ominous ring, as they are, in a less aggressive way, expressing the sentiments often expressed by Sir Arthur.

Mr England, who comes to the CEGB from the chairmanship of the South Western Electricity Board, admits that the relationship between the board, ministers and civil servants is "not satisfactory" and he will be doing all he can to improve it.

The general problem, he said, was characterized by a lack of



Mr England: Anxious for better relations.

## Groups asked to aid component makers

By Kenneth Owen

Large manufacturing companies should "accept a positive responsibility" for developing British sources for components and machines which they were now importing, Sir Ronald McIntosh, Director-General of the National Economic Development Office, urged yesterday.

Speaking at a technology transfer conference in London, Sir Ronald said that the impact of prolonged inflation on company finances had hit particularly hard the medium-sized and smaller engineering companies which produced machines and components.

This had led many of their British customers to turn to foreign sources for machines and components. If these were satisfactory there was no incen-

tive to go back to the British supplier.

"I believe that this process has now gone so far that a special effort is needed to reverse it," Sir Ronald said. Large companies should accept the responsibility to develop United Kingdom sources of components and machines.

"But the better course," he continued, "is to fight off for the larger user to help independent suppliers."

Sir Ronald stressed the "great damage" which the inflation of recent years had done to industry's research and development performance.

Mr Anthony Rawlinson, Second Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, said that United Kingdom expenditure on R and D was only about 7 per cent of that of the Western world.

## British car delegates seek joint EEC voice

By Clifford Webb

British motor and component manufacturers are sending a team to the Strasbourg headquarters of the European Parliament today to press for a stronger and more united approach to the relationship between the board, ministers and civil servants of the European motor industry.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, after months of careful planning, has recruited 60 members and officials to meet there.

Sir Ronald Jenkins, president of the Commission, and two key commissioners, Signor Guido Brunner in charge of energy, and Mr Richard Burke, transport.

The party is led by Mr David Plastow, president of the SMMT and chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motors.

## Bankruptcies in year doubled

Bankruptcies and liquidations in the last 12 months were more than double the 1973 figure, it was disclosed in a Commons reply yesterday.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Under Secretary for Trade, told Mr David Mitchell (C, Basildon) that, in the period up to March 31, 1977, there were 6,529 receiving and administration orders and 5,911 company liquidations in England and Wales. The figures were 62 per cent up on 1972 and 110 per cent up on 1973, he said.

## Little change in pay shares

The pay explosion of 1974 to 1975 had almost no effect on the distribution of incomes in the United Kingdom except to cut the share of the top one per cent of the population.

Even more surprisingly, in view of recent comment, there was no significant impact on the distribution of post-tax pay, in spite of the impact of fiscal drag, of any but the top 10 per cent of the population.

The only significant change is the share-out of pre-tax earnings to emerge in a study published today in *Economic*.

## Increased orders go to German manufacturers

### In brief

New orders received by West German manufacturing industry rose by an adjusted 1.4 per cent in March over February, the Economics Ministry said in Bonn yesterday.

The total order index stood at a provisional 150 at the end of March against 148 in both February and March, the ministry said.

For domestic orders, the March index was 135 against 136 in February and 138 in January, with 201 for foreign orders against 188 in February and 180 in January (base year 1970).

The ministry said 1977 order statistics still have to be treated with care because of changes in the calculation method.

### Vauxhall prices up

Vauxhall car prices rose by 6 per cent from midnight last night. They are the last of the "big four". British manufac-

## Retailers are again hit by sharp cutback in buying

By Caroline Atkinson

Sales of durable goods slumped by 8 per cent in the first three months of this year, after a disastrous month for retailers in March.

There was an even sharper fall in overall retail trade during March than was estimated in the provisional figures published three weeks ago.

Yesterday's final figures from the Department of Trade showed a 3.2 per cent drop in the total volume of shop sales between the last quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of this year.

This picture of a cutback in spending by consumers, whose pockets have been hit by pay policy and rising prices, is particularly marked in the durable goods sector, although it is by no means confined to this.

Food shops have suffered a 3.4 per cent fall in the volume of their turnover in the three months to March, compared to a big increase in January.

Clothing and footwear shops have been the only ones to keep up sales volume this quarter, but this was mainly due to a big increase in January.

## Tighter laws soon on advertising

By Ronald Ender

Further legislation to govern the advertising industry can be expected soon, Mr Gordon Bowes, Director-General of Fair Trading, said in London yesterday.

Speaking to the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, Mr Bowes said that the dividing line between the industry's system of self-regulation and legal control "may not now be exactly the right place".

A subject which will figure prominently in today's discussions is the EEC's attitude to the continuing success of Japanese motor imports and the need for a united approach to offset the strength of Japan's manufacturers.

The party is led by Mr David Plastow, president of the SMMT and chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Mr Bowes said he was "interested" in EEC proposals for the issuing of "cease and desist" orders for dealing with relatively minor abuses, thus making them a civil offence.

This, and other proposals within the EEC draft directive on misleading advertising, would form "an important part of the future of advertising control".

### RETAIL SALES AND HP

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry:

	Sales by volume 1970=100	New credit extended £m
1975	107.9	2,992
1976	108.1	3,608
1978 Q1	107.3	844
Q2	107.8	875
Q3	108.9	915
Q4	108.5	972
1977 Q1	105.0	1,020
1978	105.4	280
March	105.8	291
April	106.8	292
May	106.8	292
June	107.3	292
July	108.8	291
August	108.9	305
September	108.2	319
October	108.1	310
November	108.2	322
December	108.3	330
1977	106.7	324
January	105.7	342
February	103.1	354
March	103.1	354

revised

## Eight minis costing £1m for Elida Gibbs

### Computer news

The authority should not have licensing and enforcement powers, the society says, but should provide a code of conduct, have the power to call for information on systems, and consider complaints.

Presentation and publication of statistical information should always ensure that individuals cannot be identified.

But benefits could come from the greatest use for statistical purposes of data already collected: thus the passage of information for such purposes between different systems should be facilitated. Adequate safeguards can be specified to protect individual privacy.

The society says that all systems, including police information systems and those relating to national security, should be subject to the same general standards so far as the use of the information in them for statistical purposes is concerned.

Where the safety of the realm or the control of crime is concerned, special considerations must apply, but the authority should play some role in protecting the rights of individuals.

### Offer for CRC

In evidence to the Data Protection Committee, the Royal Statistical Society has welcomed the proposal to set up a Data Protection Authority which will be concerned with the protection of personal information held in computer systems. The society recommends that the authority's brief should be extended to include similar data stored in other systems.

An offer for the issued ordinary share capital of CRC Information Systems, London, has been made on behalf of GSI International, a member of the French Compagnie Générale d'Électricité group.

The directors of CRC are recommending shareholders to accept the offer, and ICFC Computer Group, which holds 75 per cent of CRC's issued share capital, has conditionally agreed to accept.

Kenneth Owen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Danger to mineral reserves

From Professor R. N. Prior

Sir, Mr Dunn has written that Britain has enough economically recoverable coal reserves to last for 300 years at present rates of production (*The Times*, May 4). Professor Sir Hugh Ford has underlined the need for the conservation of energy resources and in particular mineral resources (May 5). Mr Manners has questioned the definition of economically recoverable reserves (May 6).

The apparent controversy over whether we have or have not sufficient mineral reserves to satisfy our needs cannot be answered in a single statement of courage available divided by consumption. The recent debate over oil reserves of the North Sea provoked by Professor Oder highlighted the issue.

Economically recoverable reserves of all metals are dynamic variables, depending upon many diverse factors. Any attempt at their assessment or even their future trend requires substantial qualification in technical terms. That exercise can and should be attempted, provided that the limitations and qualifications are fully appreciated. The nonsense begins to appear when conclusions are drawn by those who do not understand the subtle limitations of the information available and the criteria of which it is based.

The dangers of disastrous shortages depend more than ever upon whether the population explosion continues unchecked, and whether human beings' appetite for consumption also continues unchecked. President Carter is to be congratulated on drawing the attention of the highest consumers, his own countrymen, to the dangers. The solutions, as Sir Hugh points out, will require drastic readjustments to our thinking, especially by those economists

whose main criteria for diagnosis and decision making are such things as GNP and DCF.

Meanwhile the National Coal Board might draw attention to the difficulties if they were to emphasize the amount of coal they are planning to leave behind in unrecyclable pillars. In the Sefton area alone, in order to obtain planning permission by reducing the amount of subsidence.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT PRIOR,  
Department of Mineral  
Resources Engineering,  
Royal School of Mines,  
London SW7 2BP.

From Professor J. Nutting

Sir, Professor Sir Hugh Ford raised some timely issues on the relationship between engineering design and the conservation of material resources. However, he seems to have reached some good conclusions from an imperfect understanding of the nature of the world's metallic resources.

In the upper 3.5 Km of the Earth's crust there are over 16,000 tonnes of aluminium, of iron and of magnesium; there are even 10,000 tonnes of gold. The sea provides an enormous reservoir of metal ions and from this reservoir recoverable metal nodules are continuously being taken up.

All this should be set against an annual world virgin metal production of about  $5 \times 10^8$  tonnes which is mostly of iron-based alloys. It is inconceivable, therefore, that we should ever run short of metal atoms.

The resources of which we may be running short are the naturally occurring concentrations of metallic minerals from which we can extract metals at a relatively low energy cost.

But as the rich ores become exhausted the leaner ores will become exploited, the energy demands will then increase

until they become the dominant parameter in controlling the cost of primary metals.

If we wish to maintain a metal-using civilization, and for civilization to know it exists, are essential, then we should try to conserve the low-energy requiring metallic resources particularly of those metals where the relatively rich ore reserves life is short.

In the production of metals the heavy energy demands are associated with mining, mineral separation and chemical reduction to the metallic state. The subsequent energy for fabrication to the semi-finished product, the engineer's starting material, is relatively small.

If, therefore, we design engineering structures in such a way that the components containing metals with a relative short resource life are readily recoverable, then by recycling we could conserve our resources at a relatively low energy cost, for we then obviate the need for the heavy energy expenditures in the primary concentration and smelting process. But there are difficulties: some metallic materials are more readily recyclable than others.

There are many other issues of a similar type. For example, can we identify the critical engineering uses of metallic materials which are likely to become costly? Then can we limit the use of these materials before they become prohibitively costly, to the critical applications?

Perhaps the metallurgist and the engineer should be working more closely together to develop resource-conscious design philosophies. Yours faithfully,

JACK NUTTING,  
President,  
The Metals Society,  
1 Carlton House Terrace,  
London, SW1.

## Oddities of Healey arithmetic

From Mr J. B. Bransbury

Sir, Among the oddities of Healey arithmetic displayed in the Finance Bill I think perhaps the oddest is contained in schedule 7, paragraph 4(4)(b), which provides that those who spend a significant part of each year working abroad, as engineers, managers, etc., are presumed unless they prove to the contrary to work 365 days in the year.

A fascinating result is that if we have two senior executives, one who works 365 days in the year and the other who works say 240, and one may be abroad for 365 days, the same seniority and work abroad, the latter gentleman gets a 50 per cent larger deduction from his taxable income than the compulsive worker.

This may of course be a dead-end ploy to promote workabroad and will doubtless be sold to be well within the social contract.

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. BRANSBURY,  
Cordwainers,  
Long Crandon,  
Aylesbury HP18 9BL.

### Fore-court the motorist

From Mr N. D. J. Lane

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Contrasts among the market leaders

News from the wholesale markets from the FT index on to a new high for the year, last night, just as it seemed that a widely anticipated downward trend was about to set in. For how long the expected "correction" will now be postponed must depend largely on the strength of the suspicious new commitment in squares.

The knowledge that the institutional coffers are brimful of cash has been enough to restrain the potential sellers with the effect that stock shortages have amplified what buyers have seen out of all proportion.

Despite the excitement generated by the index breaking and subsequently standing firm above the psychological 450 barrier it is worth noting also that at last night's level of 452 it is still more than 89 points or 16.7 per cent off the all-time high of 543.6 achieved in May 1972.

And, after several difficult sectors have already hit all-time peaks, the performance of individual stocks has been remarkably patchy. Overseas traders, heavy engineering, newspapers and publishing, chemicals and oils, have all hit new highs over the past few days.

Statistical market coverage by DataSTREAM shows up largely similar progress over the five years since May 1972, by different sectors. But it also reveals some surprising laggards. For example the DataSTREAM analysis shows that while buying the whole of the chemical sector would have produced an absolute gain of just under 33 per cent against a market fall of 18 per cent—a performance of 62 per cent picking and choosing within the sector could have been an overwhelming success.

Flame for finance is still down 8 per cent; Yorkshire Chemicals is 27 per cent lower; Laker 23 per cent; Rover 24 per cent and Renault almost 12 per cent.

Equally famous names feature among the poor performers in oil where the sector has been some 52 per cent. Bucolac, of course, has plummeted most with an 80 per cent fall, but Ultramer is 34 per cent lower; Century 47 per cent off and Berry Wiggins still down almost a fifth. The growth in this sector is clearly down to zero.

Reynolds has apparently blown very cold on the notion of a straight purchase of Parsons by GEC, which is reported to be unwilling to run to a very fancy price. Reynolds would therefore prefer the NED to buy Parsons out as a prelude to coming to terms with GEC separately. Sums of £50m are being mentioned.



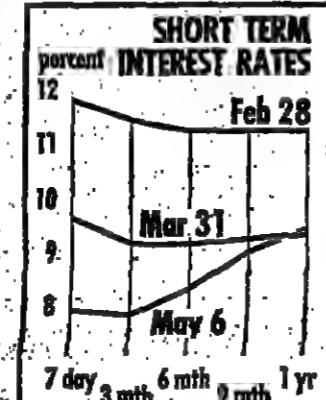
Sir Francis Sandilands, chairman of Commercial Union Assurance: cutting underwriting losses.

### Interest rates

#### Looking at the yield curve

When it comes to looking for the direction in which interest rates are likely to jump next, the realeaves may be as good as anywhere to start. But some of those stamping a more scientific approach are increasingly struck by the present steepness of the short-term yield curve.

As the chart shows, the shape of the yield curve for interest rates in the interbank market from seven days out to 12 months has altered radically over the past couple of months. Were we to extend the chart to date, the yield on short-dated gilts (out to five years) would change in the shape, world over, from a flat line out to 5 years at the end of February, the differential between the yields on short-term financial instruments generally just under 3 per cent and the high coupon



### Commercial Union

#### Impressing the market

Household subsidence cost the insurance industry more than £50m last year, and first quarter figures from the UK Association suggest that the full costs of the past few years' exceptional weather on domestic property accounts have yet to be seen.

Greater public awareness of the possibility of making such claims added to the structural effects of an unusually wet winter following a series of unusually dry summers have kept CU's further film in the first three months. Raising interest rates should resolve the problem long term. But residual subsidence claims costs could take the edge from an otherwise markedly improved United Kingdom underwriting account this year, helped by motor rate increases averaging 17 per cent due in mid-summer.

Estimates for the full costs of subsidence claims may have been on the low side, but a £12m provision by CU against the Tenerife air crash confirms views that the disaster will not have a significant impact on the composite underwriting performance.

The institutions have, by and large, been switching their interest from gilts to equities, the authorities may well have been feeding out such stock as they picked up from overseas sterling holders converting to the new foreign currency bonds in mid-April, and short-term operators, such as the discount houses, may well have been cutting their gilt books.

## Business Diary: Fairchild's Corrigan • Save and prosper?

Wilfred Corrigan, the son of a Liverpool doctor, has at 39 become chairman of the board of directors of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, the American multinational whose headquarters are in San Jose, California.

Fairchild Camera yesterday reported first quarter profits of \$2.2m, and earnings of 4c per share, compared with \$1.97m and 4c per share at the same time last year.

Corrigan succeeds Roswell L. Gilpatrick, who has been chairman since 1975 and who continues as a director.

He graduated in chemical engineering from Imperial College, London, and from 1960 worked first with Motorola and then with Transoceanic Communications, joining Fairchild in 1968.

**Sauve qui peut**

Sir James Goldsmith, chairman of Carettaam, sometimes purser through the courts of private

Only when *L'Express* is sold will he be established again, and fears in his other sphere of operations, France, as he has in England.

The main concern of French journalists is that Goldsmith may be building a new international *L'Express*, has been well received by French journalists, not because he is saving it from extinction (which was not the case), but because the departure of the paper's owner, Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, was such a relief.

Servan-Schreiber wrote in a farewell article in March: "The course of events and the political measures I have been led to undertake in the last two years have gradually made it incompatible to carry out this task and to be sole head of a big press group."

Since 1969, when he became general secretary of the Radical Party, Servan-Schreiber has been essentially a politician and has tried to use the weekly to further his political career—which has so far fallen short of his ambitions.

After his co-founder and editor, Francois Giroud, was brought into the government by President Giscard D'Estrées in 1974, the quality of the magazine declined.

Goldsmith, however, has promised to put an end to all this, to establish a clear editorial structure and, to restore *L'Express* to its vocation as a news magazine without party attachment.

Goldsmith says he hopes to hire new talents—which must mean there will be firings as well.

there is more time for the wider issues.

It's not just desks suppliers that are going to suffer. England is planning to make less use of his chauffeur driven car in the morning and evenings. Weather permitting, he plans to take the Underground part of the way to his office in the City and walk the rest of the way to and from his new flat in Chelsea.

#### Transportive

British Leyland International, the subsidiary formed some two years ago to handle the state-controlled motor group's worldwide exports, has only just got round to forming a "traffic and transportation" department. It will save £2.5m this year in shipping and air freight charges alone, and replaces 10 departments independently operated within Leyland Cars and Leyland Truck and Bus companies.

We understand that the reason d'etre of BL International is to reap the benefits of centralised control—and where better to do it than in cutting an annual transport bill which tops £45m.

David Andrews, managing director of BL International, when asked "Why not sooner?", was equally direct: "It was a question of priorities. There are just not enough hours in the day to tackle everything."

He has recruited Douglas Sansom, 43, from Redland Purple, to head the new 25-strong department. One of his most pressing tasks is the carriage of components to the new Nigerian

## EEC takes another step towards company law harmonization

On December 13, 1976, the Council of the EEC took another important step towards the harmonization of national company laws in Europe and the establishment of a common market for companies in the EEC. The council adopted the Second Directive on Company Law Harmonization which deals with the formation of public limited companies, and the maintenance and alteration of their names.

This proposal was strenuously opposed in the United Kingdom not only because it was felt that it was inherently unjust but because here the private company is the normal form of small business which in other member states is usually carried on by single traders or partnerships.

The draft directive was amended on October 30, 1977. This revision proposed a compromise by requiring a lower minimum capital for the British and Irish company than was required for the public company. But this compromise was equally unacceptable to the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic because in these countries enterprises sometimes grow from very small beginnings to medium-sized businesses which eventually will go public, and it was feared that the tax system would be strained if the requirements of a minimum capital and other rigid legal rules were imposed.

The proposed change is wholly acceptable to the United Kingdom. Indeed, it is possible that the Companies Act which will give effect to the directive will require a higher minimum capital, eg £50,000.

Further, shares issued for a consideration must be paid up at a time the company is incorporated or authorised to commence business at not less than 25 per cent of the nominal value. If the company has not given up its right to do so, the company should be allowed to do so.

This reform has nothing to do with the legislative realization to which the Government is committed. In the following the main provisions of the Second Directive will be reviewed.

1. The main improvement of the final version of the Second Directive, as compared with the draft which preceded it, concerns the position of the private company. The original draft submitted to the council on March 5, 1976, provided that the directive should apply only to public companies but failed, for reasons too lengthy to explain here, British and Irish private companies as well.

It thus refused the British private company a status equal to the German GmbH, the French Sarl, the Dutch BV, and similar company structures in the EEC. It is believed that the main provisions of the Second Directive will be retained.

2. The directive further requires the company to indicate its nature in its name (art 1(1)).

The Companies Bill of 1973 proposed that a public company should include in its name the words "public limited company" or the letters "plc".

The Department of Trade still appears to favour this solution although representation has been made that

it would be preferable to require private companies to add "proprietary" or "pty" to their names, as is the case in Australia and South Africa.

3. A major change in British company law which the council directive requires is that every public company which will be not less than 25,000 units of account (approximately £10,415) (art 6(1)). British company law is the only company law in the EEC which does not require a minimum capital of a public company.

The proposed change is strictly acceptable to the United Kingdom. Indeed, it is possible that the Companies Act which will give effect to the directive will require a higher minimum capital, eg £50,000.

4. Further, shares issued for a consideration must be paid up at a time the company is incorporated or authorised to commence business at not less than 25 per cent of the nominal value. If the company has not given up its right to do so, the company should be allowed to do so.

5. Of great importance is the provision that in case of a "serious loss" of the subscribed capital a general meeting of shareholders must be convened to consider whether the company should be wound up or any other measures be taken. The amount of "serious loss" shall not exceed the total profits made since the end of the last financial year plus any distributable profits brought forward or reserves available for that purpose (art 13 (2)).

6. The proposed change is wholly acceptable to the United Kingdom. Indeed, it is possible that the Companies Act which will give effect to the directive will require a higher minimum capital, eg £50,000.

7. Of great importance is the provision that in case of a "serious loss" of the subscribed capital a general meeting of shareholders must be paid up at a time the company is incorporated or authorised to commence business at not less than 25 per cent of the nominal value. If the company has not given up its right to do so, the company should be allowed to do so.

8. The directive further requires the company to indicate its nature in its name (art 1(1)).

The Companies Bill of 1973 proposed that a public company should include in its name the words "public limited company" or the letters "plc".

9. The directive contains detailed provisions on the maintenance of the capital. In particular, except for the cases of reduction of the

subscribed capital, no dividend or other distribution to shareholders shall be made out of assets corresponding to the amount of the subscribed capital plus those reserves which, by law, must not be distributed (art 13).

10. The directive further lays down the fundamental principle that "for the purposes of the implementation of this directive, the laws of the member states shall ensure equal treatment to all shareholders who are in the same position" (art 42). The principle of non-discrimination is, of course, one of the great principles on which the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers is based.

11. To sum up, in its final form the Second Council Directive contains little to which British business can legitimately object. It appears, in fact, to have been influenced by modern English company law thinking.

It would, however, be calamitous if that directive were given effect in the United Kingdom forthwith. It is reported that the Council of Ministers might soon adopt two other directives on company law harmonization, namely, the Fourth and the Seventh Draft Directives. Both these directives deal with accounts of public and private companies and the latter with group accounts.

If they are approved by the council, the United Kingdom can give effect to the Second, Fourth and Seventh Directives by a measure of company law reform. That procedure would be preferable to a reform by stages, whereby each new directive is adopted by the council in effect in the United Kingdom by a new Companies Act.

Clive Schmitzoff

The author is Visiting Professor of International Business Law at the City University and at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

## Industrial strategy 8: Constructional steelwork

### Is it just a paper chase?

"We are becoming increasingly frustrated at the way in which most of our recommendations, the bulk of them requiring Government action, are just not being carried through"

Capacity utilization in the industry has fallen from a steel throughput of about 800,000 tonnes three years ago to a present level of about half that, with an improvement to about 600,000 tonnes expected this year. Little could be done to improve things on the home market front but the importance of winning big steel-intensive contracts overseas has been identified as a critical factor affecting overall performance.

The industry employs a total workforce of between 30,000 and 40,000, many of them skilled engineering workers. Against the background of a depressed market there has been little unemployment with companies anxious to hold on to their labour in view of the difficulties of attracting skilled workers back.

The situation is understandable given that the industry is concerned with the manufacture and erection of major steel structures for the construction, civil engineering, energy and process industries. It is being affected most of its customer industries. In export markets, where the working party and the industry have been attempting to secure important contracts, things are not much better and the feeling is that there is little prospect of a significant uptake until next year and strong doubts as to the scale of the recovery thereafter.

The industry is in desperate need of the very large "jumbo" projects which are known to be in the pipeline, particularly in the Middle East and in South America. Last year, an estimated 200,000 tonnes of constructional steelwork was the subject of inquiry conducted worldwide.

The working party has given a warning that export orders of this type are needed now if the industry is not to contract severely in size.

The importance of such contracts was underlined by the working party, which drew attention to the fact that 80 per cent of the value of a constructional steel export order is executed in the United Kingdom with benefits for employment in the steel fabrication industry and the steel industry itself, and to the balance of payments.

Failing some radical improvement in its exports, the industry is faced with rationalization if it is to be in a position to strengthen its longer term prospects.

For this year the working party is to concentrate its work on the examination of the various strategic options faced by the industry and the degree to which resources can be found to implement the major changes which are likely to arise. In the export field it plans to examine the industry's competitive position against other nations (the Japanese and South Korean constructional steel industries being among the fiercest international competitors).

The plan is also to review the potential for improving performance factors which influence the industry's share of the home market and the degree to which

prospective demand is matched by the resources of plant, manpower and finance at present deployed by the industry.

The BSC, as both a customer and a supplier to the industry, is closely involved in its future. Sir Charles Villiers at the end of last year revealed that the corporation was examining the possibility of its providing performance bonds to United Kingdom constructional steelwork consortia seeking work in the export field. Since then a small committee has been established to liaise with Mr David Waterstone, the corporation's managing director in charge of contracts.

The sector working party has stressed that all that was being asked for was administrative action to improve the industry's opportunities and to demonstrate the competitiveness of its products and redress certain cash flow disadvantages.

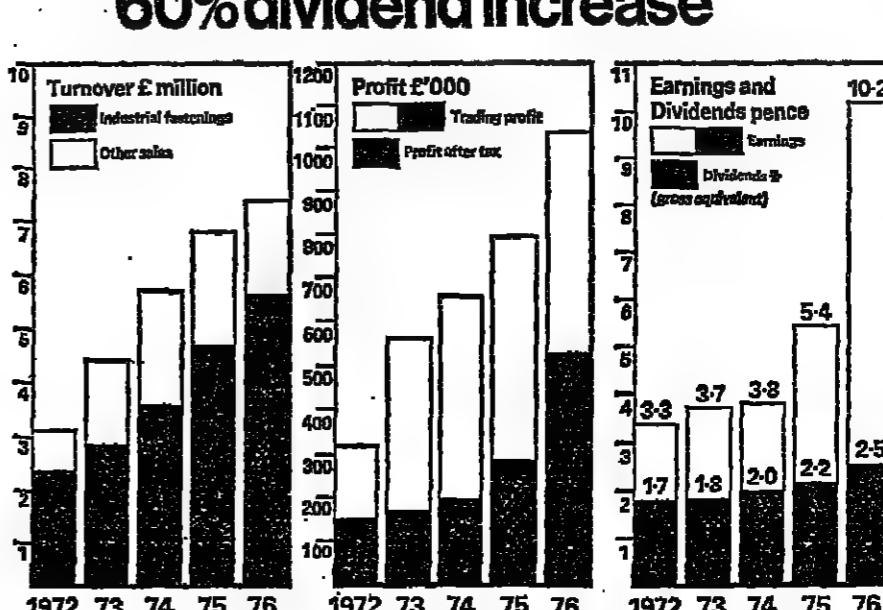
The DoE's response was disappointing, not to say frustrating—such changes would be administratively inconvenient. But an industry source observed: "We believed that it was one of the objectives of the BSC could assist in promoting the industry's export objectives."

On the home front the frustrations appear to be greater. Some undoubtedly arise from the Whitehall dictat that the Department of Environment should be the sponsoring department for the constructional steelwork industry. There are those in the industry who feel that constructional steelworking would be more suitably sponsored by the Department of Industry, but a change of sponsorship seems unlikely.

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## Coltness Group

Trading profits top £1 million  
Rights issue and proposed 60% dividend increase



# Europa

## Finding concrete policies to solve human problems

"The socialist economy must not become a fig-leaf for old-style capitalism", Herr Heinz Vetter, President of the German TUC, told us.

Herr Vetter, what in your view is the biggest problem currently facing the European trade unions?

In our view the Number One problem is unemployment. We were thoroughly prepared for the series of European discussions now in progress which will culminate in the tripartite conference with management, the unions, and the EEC Commission and the governments. It won't just be a question of setting targets but of producing very concrete policies to deal with the economic and human problems we are facing.

It certainly won't be easy to get the governments to spell out in concrete terms what they propose to do, and to discuss this with us and reach joint conclusions. Governments tend to be "as passive as they are also answerable" to their parliaments, but we are in agreement with the majority of European MPs in our aims and demands.

The second problem is direct elections to the European Parliament. The unions, which have had their own European association for some time now, want a Parliament elected directly by the people, which has machinery to function in the same way as a national Parliament.

Direct elections are not enough: the powers of the Parliament must be increased, and in addition the entire structure of Community councils, organizations and agencies must be made more democratic.

Don't you think that all this discussion about the European Parliament is a side-issue compared to the real problems?

No. I think only the policies and those people who have already given up Europe for lost could think that. Even if direct elections were only a small step forward, we would be satisfied. We are going to support direct elections and in so doing show that the man in the street is really interested in Europe. I believe that direct elections will help to make public opinion

open to question. We are not after another system, we are out to eliminate the recognized defects, the deficiencies in this system. We said "market economy" fine, but this market economy must have man as its focal point. This is why we are particularly disturbed by current developments. We have lost a lot of ground now that we are back to worrying about jobs. This inhuman face of unemployment must go, and quickly.

Do you have any concrete proposals for measures to deal with unemployment?

In West Germany we have already gone a long way in discovering the causes—both economic and structural—of unemployment and in analysing in great detail its impact on the various groups, such as the older workers, handicapped workers and workers in some whole (branches) of industry.

We have reached the conclusion—a frightening one for many people—that unemployment cannot be beaten by short-term measures alone.

Other means must be used, for instance, restraining suitable people in other skills which are still in demand. . . When you see how many jobs rationalization has cost—and you cannot oppose rationalization as long as there is free international competition—and when you see the children of the bulge reaching employable age, you become convinced that economic growth on its own is not enough. At some point or other working hours will have to be cut.

You recently said that "if the system is incapable of getting back to full employment, it must be changed". Do you see the causes of unemployment in the nature of the system itself?

You can't give a "yes" or "no" answer that in West Germany after the war, we—and particularly the unions—sought to build an economic system half-way between the old-style capitalism and communism. The result was the socialist market economy.

But the socialist market economy must not be just a fig leaf for the old-style capitalism. And this is why this economic system should be

another start to the new account was quickly replaced by a lively demand after the Wholesale Prices Index had given a more favourable view of inflation.

Bargains marked of 3,200 were the best since the middle of March and, though there was a measure of profit-taking in the afternoon trade, it was easily absorbed. The FT Index, just 0.7 up at 2 p.m., closed 4.1 ahead at 454.2.

Gilt-edged stocks were initially depressed by Friday's unchanged Minimum Lending Rate but they, too, took heart from the wholesale prices and early losses of up to a full point in some cases were clipped back. By the close, short dates were up to three-eighths lower with longer maturities down by half a point.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the West German unions have agreed to relatively moderate wage increases. Did you expect some return for this, and have you got it?

When we were looking for the other side of the bargain (reduction in unemployment) to show our members, it did not come. Hence the crisis of confidence. As union we do not just have to be able to propose a policy, we also have to be able to demonstrate it to our militants that it is the right one. This is becoming difficult in West Germany, and this is why we have to make a major effort before the end of the year to demonstrate that the unions have been following the right policy.

Do you think that West German society can accept a figure of one million unemployed for much longer?

You can get used to living with problems. On one hand perhaps the decision makers are getting used to the unemployment level. On the other hand there is a much stronger awareness among the workers:

Unemployment is becoming more and more of an issue for employees. If the gap widens between this complacency on the one hand and the increasing awareness on the other, then you must expect political consequences. And then there are the unemployed themselves. There is an increase in the number of long-term unemployed, and an accompanying rise in the number of disaffected.

You should say that West Germany won't stay as peaceful in this third year of the crisis as it has been in the past.

Daniel Vetter

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In July, heavy-lorry makers, Foden's and ERF, report on their years to last March. Foden's could check in with a swing from £1m of losses to profits of the same order, and ERF could have computed from £90,000 of losses to profits of £1.4m or more. Over the year, Foden's had the convertible preferred shares, to pay a "recovery" dividend with cover to spare. ERF shares are 41p, and Foden's 33p.

Though the leading industrial issues saw their fair share of demand, it was the second-line, specialized stocks which stole most of the limelight.

Among the strongest spots were Johnson-Richards Tiles which jumped 22p to 236p in the continuing hope of terms from London Brick, water engineer, A. Monk which rose 10p

to 88p, Storey Brothers which closed 10p ahead at 83p and RFD which ended 8p ahead at 63p in spite of denying that talk of any kind were in progress.

Well-established takeover favourites like Arthur Bell 50 to 25p and Reming. Gibson 17p to 28p continued to gain ground, while Andre Silvertone slipped a penny to 54p after rejecting the latest BTR terms and London & Northern were 4p off at 351p on the Murphy sell-off.

Once again there was considerable interest in electricals. Foremost was Decca "A" which soared 25p to 345p on bid hopes. Earlier the chairman said he knew of no plans for a Government-supported rationalization of the electronics industry involving his company.

Another to benefit from the prospect of Government action was Rayville Parsons which gained 12p to 189p in anticipation of a statement on the Draz project. Strong first-half profits helped United Scientific to rise 3p to 218p, but Lawrence Scott, 2p up to 122p, made a muted response to a profits

forecast, this being outweighed by the lack of further takeover news.

Others favoured on the pitch were Dixons Photographic 6p to 104p, Muirhead 4p to 204p and ICL, mentioned here, which put on 9p for a close of 212p.

North Sea potential brought a strong investment demand for Thomson Organisation which rose another 27p to 590p and for the same reason Tri-control ended 10p to the good at 156p. Capital reorganization plans continued to boost Hawker Siddeley another 22p to 652p, but Tesco gave up 12p after its decision to stop giving trading stamps.

Hopes of still-lower mortgage rates gave a firmer look to the building sector.

Housebuilder Barratt Developments put on 5p to 95p, the annual review helped Travis 12p to 101p to 101p, BFB were a firm spot at 168p and Costain rose 6p to 204p ahead of figures.

Issues to benefit from weekend comment included Remond, which added 5p to 65p, Ductile Steel 9p to 139p, Cav-

Latest dividends

Company

Ord div

Year date

Year's prev

year

Year's prev





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## Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 23

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